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CHERNENKO MESSAGE TO THATCHER

Arms talks briefing at Chequers

MRS THATCHER was given details of Russia's attitude towards next month's US-Soviet missile negotiations in a personal message from President Chernenko yesterday.

Mr Chernenko's message was read out at a three-hour meeting at Chequers by Mr Gorbachev, the Kremlin's No. 2. The Prime Minister was clearly pleased with the results of the meeting, says OUR DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT.

She is to brief President Reagan on the Chequers meeting next Saturday after a round-world diplomatic trip, starting today, which will take her to Peking for the signing of the agreement for the return of Hongkong, to Hongkong itself, and then to Washington.

The importance Russia attaches to Mr Gorbachev's visit to Britain was shown last night when Russian television devoted five minutes of its news to it. PRAVDA said Mr Gorbachev was visiting Britain "with goodwill and good intentions."

Peking prepares-P4

Gorbachev's fine start

By DAVID ADAMSON Diplomatic Correspondent

A PERSONAL message from President Chernenko to Mrs Thatcher, setting out the Soviet attitude towards next month's US-Soviet talks in Geneva on missile negotiations, was read to the Prime Minister at Chequers yesterday by Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, who is regarded as ranking next to Mr Chernenko in the Kremlin.

No details of the message's contents were given, but British sources said it outlined Soviet attitudes to Anglo-Soviet relations as well as to Western relations generally, with particular reference to arms negotiations.

Mrs Thatcher said she would reply in detail to President Chernenko.

The Prime Minister ended yesterday's talks clearly extremely pleased with the results, which were atmospheric rather than substantive.

She was described as feeling that an excellent start had been made to an important week in diplomacy.

Sincerity of West emphasised

Backed up by Sir Geoffrey Howe, Foreign Secretary, she emphasised repeatedly the sincerity of the West, particularly the United States, in wanting an end to the arms race and a reduction in the level of arms based on a balanced and verifiable agreement.

With Mr Gorbachev at Chequers were Mr Leonid Zamiatin, head of the Central Committee's International Information Department, and Evgeny Yelkhov, who is regarded as an expert on space weaponry.

Mr Gorbachev clearly made a favourable impression on the British side.

He was described as a very

Concern over tension

By NIGEL WADE in Moscow

THE London visit by Mr Gorbachev received a solid five minutes coverage on the Russian television news last night and on Saturday.

PRAVDA also carried details, saying he was visiting Britain "with goodwill and good intentions."

Television viewers last night heard a summary of the talks between Mrs Thatcher and Mr Gorbachev, reporting that he delivered a personal message from President Chernenko.

Talks warning

According to the Tass news agency, the message "emphasised that the establishment of a certain mutual understanding between the Soviet Union and Britain, and their attitude to matters aimed at lessening the threat of a nuclear war and at strengthening European and international security, require large importance in the international situation that has now taken shape."

Tass said: "Both sides expressed concern over the



Mrs Thatcher overcoming the language barrier when she asked Mr Gorbachev to change places with his wife Raisa for a photograph at Chequers yesterday.

THATCHER TO BRIEF REAGAN

By RICHARD BEESTON in Washington

MR SHULTZ, the U.S. Secretary of State, has returned to Washington to report to President Reagan on his talks with Mr Gorbachev in Geneva and to begin the internal debate over American strategy at next month's Geneva arms negotiations.

Because of a deep split between Mr Shultz and the Pentagon, Mr Reagan is not expected to decide finally how to proceed with the Soviet Foreign Minister, Andrei Gromyko until a few days before the meeting of January 7.

As part of his decision-making, Mr Reagan will also listen to the advice from Mrs Thatcher next Saturday. She will give him a first-hand account of her meeting with the Soviet leader, Mr Mikhail Gorbachev.

Mr Reagan's key decision is how flexible America should be over a ban on space weapons development and anti-satellite weapons testing.

Space warning

Mrs Thatcher has warned of the dangers of an arms race in space.

The Pentagon wants to offer Moscow no new concessions in Geneva, but simply to resume arms limitations negotiations where the Russians broke them off last year.

The State Department favours the idea of strengthening the testing of anti-satellite weapons in order to break the east-west deadlock and get "umbrella" negotiations going on all aspects of arms control.

Special Article-P19

BUCKS FIZZ MAN 'IMPROVING'

Mike Nolan, 30, the Bucks Fizz singer, is improving, is now breathing on his own and has been taken off a life support machine at Newcastle upon Tyne General Hospital.

The group's publicity agent, Mr Nick Massey, said yesterday: "There has been no deterioration in his condition since the operation to remove a blood clot from his brain and that is a hopeful sign. He is, however, still unconscious and his condition remains critical."

'Special needs' aid may be cut

By FRANCES WILLIAMS Economics Correspondent

DRASTIC simplification of the supplementary benefits system, which could mean the abolition of special additions for heating and other needs in favour of a higher basic benefit, is expected to be recommended in the Government's social security reviews, now nearing completion.

Ministers are determined to reduce the complexity of the present system which, they believe, means that many claimants go without benefits to which they are entitled. But they accept that reforms will entail some rough justice.

Many pensioners, together with the sick and disabled, who are now able to claim the biggest additions for special needs, will be worse off because the increase in the basic benefit will not be enough to offset the loss.

Officials are considering whether to incorporate the lower heating addition of £2.10 a week into the basic supplementary benefit rate.

The lower addition now goes to well over one-third of those on supplementary benefit, including the over-65s and families with pre-school children.

People not receiving additions will gain from the move.

But the one-in-eight of claimants—about half a million people—now receiving higher additions for heating and other special needs, could lose £5 a week or more.

Means-tested benefit

Other reforms under consideration in the four reviews, which are expected to go to the Prime Minister in late January or early February in time for action in the Budget, include a big increase in child benefit, coupled with a new testing for more affluent families payment of family income supplement for poor working families through the tax system, and withdrawal of benefits from youngsters who refuse a Government training place.

The Cabinet Minister responsible for jobs, Lord Young, also favours cuts in young people's benefits.

His own review of employment prospects for youngsters is expected to be sent to Mrs Thatcher at the same time.

The Social Services Secretary, Mr Fowler, has set four targets: simplification of the benefits system; more efficient targeting of benefits to those in need; the promotion of employment; and the encouragement of self-help.

Editorial Comment-P10

RACE YACHT CAPSIZES

The French trimaran Medeiros Sans Frontieres capsized yesterday during the Transatlantic Columbus route race.

The United States coast guard plane spotted four of its five crew on the yacht's hull and a Japanese vessel was on its way to rescue them. The vessel was lying seventh about 1,600 miles from the finish in Santo Domingo.—Reuter.

WOMAN GETS KEY MoD JOB

By Maj-Gen Edward Fursdon Defence Correspondent

THE Defence Ministry is to have its own "Think Tank," to be headed by a woman.

Miss Gloria Franklin, newly promoted to the Civil Service rank of assistant secretary—equivalent to a brigadier—brings wide experience to the post.

She was secretary to the Government's report on censorship last year, and was on loan to the Foreign Office Planning Staff—its "Think Tank"—from 1979 to 1981.

The new division, to be called Secretariat—Policy Studies, will officially open for business on Jan. 2 as part of the new centralised Defence Staff.

Important role

Its main tasks are to: Undertake long-term studies over a very wide field of defence matters. Be responsible for the annual Defence White Paper. Take over prime responsibility for the Defence Ministry's contacts and the academic world, and institutions in situations involved with security issues. Draft major speeches and articles for Ministers and senior members of the Ministry.

"It is an exciting challenge," said Miss Franklin, who read Modern Languages at Oxford, "and we must show by what we do that we have an important role to play."

DAVIS CUP THREAT TO AMERICA

By Our Sports Staff

The United States, trailing 2-0 after defeats for John McEnroe and Jimmy Connors by Henrik Sundstrom and Mats Wilander in Gothenburg yesterday, could lose the Davis Cup final against Sweden today on a default.

Wimbledon referee Alan Mills, who is in control of the match, said last night he is considering disqualifying Connors from the rest of the tie because of his obscene language at the match with Wilander.

If Connors is disqualified he would have to forfeit his reverse singles game against Sundstrom tomorrow and that would put Sweden 3-0 ahead in this best-of-five match contest.

John Parsons-P18

TURKEY CHARGES

Four people will appear in court at Grimsby, Humberside, today, charged with offences arising from the alleged poisoning of turkeys at the town's Presto supermarket last week.

Today's Weather

General Summary: Sharp frontal passage over the W. of Ireland, S.E. of E. ENGLAND, E. of ENGLAND, CHANNEL, ISLANDS: Rain, drizzle and blizzard in afternoon. Wind S. veering W. moderate to fresh. Max 46F (8C).

S.W. ENGLAND, WALES: Rain clearing. Sunny intervals and showers. Wind S. veering W. fresh to strong. 46F (8C).

S. NORTH SEA, STRAIT OF DOVER: Wind S. veering W. force 5 or 6. Sea moderate or rough.

ENGLAND CHANNEL: Wind S.W. veering W. force 5 or 6. Sea moderate or rough.

St George's Channel, Irish Sea: Wind W. or N.W. force 6 or 8. Sea very rough.

Outlook: Showers or longer outbreaks of rain. Becoming milder.

Weather maps-P18

Commons guest of MP defends IRA attacks

By A. J. McILROY and KENNETH CLARKE

A WOMAN convicted of terrorist offences in Ulster, who visited the Commons last month at the invitation of a Labour MP, said yesterday that the IRA was right to take its "struggle" to Britain.

Linda Quigley, 24, from Belfast, who went to the Commons on Nov. 28—about six weeks after the IRA bombing at the Grand Hotel, Brighton—said she supported the IRA's view that the British Government was a "legitimate target."

Miss Quigley denies that she is a member of the IRA, or of its political wing, Sinn Fein.

She has been campaigning for an end to strip searches at the women's prison in Armagh, and has made frequent visits to Britain in that connection.

Yesterday she said she had collected "about three dozen signatures" on a petition, mostly from Labour MPs.

On her visit to the Commons she was accompanied by Gerard

SOLDIERS ESCAPE CAR BOMB

By KENNETH CLARKE in Belfast

A FAULTY timer on a 60-lb car bomb saved dozens of off-duty soldiers and their girlfriends from being killed in Ulster early yesterday.

The bomb exploded outside the "Deep" disco in Holmwood County Down, at 2.40 a.m. It was packed with nuts, bolts and nails. It wrecked the disco bar, and broke windows over a wide area. People were showered with glass as the slept. But no one was injured.

Earlier the disco had been packed with 200 dancers, many of them troops from the Palace Barracks, half a mile away. Police believe the bomb was timed to go off at 2 a.m., as the disco was closing and revellers were streaming out.

McLoughlin, who has been convicted of conspiracy to cause explosions. They were both subject to normal security checks.

The visit was made at the invitation of Mr Jeremy Corbyn, Left-wing MP for Islington North.

Leading Tory MPs expressed

No warning

As it was, heavy rain sent everyone hurrying home, and by 2.40 a.m. the street was empty. Police said "had anybody still been the street they would surely have been killed or seriously maimed."

No warning was given of the explosion. But later a man claiming to represent the Irish National Liberation Army (INLA) telephoned the BBC in Belfast, without using a previously recognised code word, and said the blast was a warning to local bar and club owners not to serve soldiers.

Seventeen people, including 11 soldiers, died in December 1982 when a bomb planted by the INLA went off without warning at the Droppin Well pub disco at Ballykelly, near Londonderry.

Yesterday's bomb is believed by the security forces to have been an attempt to repeat that outrage.

Picture-P2

£664m BAT BID FOR HAMBRO

By Our City Staff

An agreed £664 million takeover bid—the second biggest on record—has been made for Hambro & Co. Ltd., London, Britain's largest unit-linked life business, by BAT Industries, the world's biggest tobacco manufacturer.

Last January BAT won the biggest takeover battle ever seen in Britain when it bought Eagle Star for £885 million.

City Report-P13

Vandals destroy world's stock of wonder drugs

That headline has not been on the front page—yet. Nevertheless, it's an accurate statement of what is happening, right now, in the Tropical Rain Forest.

40% of the world's drugs come from—or are derived from—wild sources. A quarter of all prescription drugs are biological in origin. One drug developed from the Rosy Periwinkle—a tropical plant—has given new hope to sufferers from leukaemia. Thanks to this healing plant their chances of recovery have soared since 1960 from one in five to four in five. Many other diseases have been successfully treated with drugs from wild tropical plants.

But, tragically, time is running out for the Tropical Rain Forests... one of the world's most important wildlife habitats—home of nearly half the Earth's species of plants, birds and animals.

Consumption of hard-woods from tropical forests in the last 30 years has soared by 1,500%. In the time it takes you to WWF, U.K. life-saving work.

One of the most important ways of supporting our work is to remember the World Wildlife Fund-U.K. in your will—or send a gift of money. Better still—do both. Consult your solicitor or write to Derrick Hewitt for details.

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STANSTED PLAN DOOMED, SAYS BUCHANAN

By CON COUGHLIN

THE Government will find itself skidding on a new banana skin if proposals to develop Stansted as a third international airport for London are given the go-ahead, claims Prof. Sir Colin Buchanan, a leading planning expert.

Development of Stansted would be an environmental disaster and destroy one of the most beautiful areas of the country for ever, he said. "Stansted is doomed to go the way of all other proposals; it will end in failure."

"If the Government tries to press ahead with this, it will encounter very intense opposition which will ultimately force it to back down."

Prof. Buchanan, who sat on the Roskill Commission in the 1970s, believes there are no grounds for developing Stansted to handle up to 25 million passengers a year by the end of the century. Such a development would make it the same size that Heathrow is today and would mean a large part of rural North Essex and East Hertfordshire would be lost.

Regional airports in the North of England and the Midlands should be developed instead, with the future demands of air travel in the British Isles being spread around the whole country, rather than being concentrated in the South East.

Prof. Buchanan, who acted as an adviser to the North West Essex and East Hertfordshire Preservation Association, the main Stansted opposition group, and the consortium in favour of developing regional airports, spent the last few years researching the question of where to site a third airport for London.

Rural England

The Roskill Commission eventually decided in favour of building a four-runway airport capable of handling up to 100 million passengers a year at Croydon; but Prof. Buchanan refused to put his name to this decision on the grounds that it would destroy a beautiful part of rural England which separates the London and Birmingham conurbations.

He came out in favour of building the airport on Marlin Sands, a proposal which was later accepted by the Heath Government, only to be abandoned by Labour in 1974 on cost grounds.

"The Roskill Commission was very arrogant and ignored all the environmental factors that were placed before it. On the basis of cost analysis, they opted to build a massive airport in the heart of the countryside."

"The same has happened with this latest report and the Government will find that people will just not allow this sort of development to go through."

Mr Graham Eyre, Q.C., the latest Government inspector appointed to look into the question of where to site the next London airport, recommended in his report, published last week, simultaneous developments of Stansted and further expansion of Heathrow.

"Holy" rights

"The big mistake this report has made is that it is based on the premise that the future demand must only be met in the South East," said Prof. Buchanan. "There seems to be this feeling that there is something holy about the demands of air passenger traffic which has to be met at all costs."

Development of Stansted would mean the destruction of



The wreckage of a car containing a 60lb bomb, packed with nails, nuts and bolts, which exploded yesterday outside a nightclub regularly used by soldiers in Hollywood, six miles north-east of Belfast. No-one was hurt in the early morning blast.

NAAFFS PAY-CUT OF £14m

By Maj-Gen. EDWARD FURSDON Defence Correspondent

NEARLY £14,000,000 out of a total £334 million turnover was returned to Service units, central welfare funds and individual customers by the NAAFF in the year to April.

Services units' and ships' welfare funds received £6,800,000; individual customers were paid £5,400,000 in discount and dividend; £200,000 went to club improvement funds; and £200,000 was paid over to the Services' Central Welfare funds.

Of this £5,600,000 came from gaming machines and £800,000 from amusement machines.

Currency costs

The NAAFF's turnover of £334 million was down for the first time in 25 years by £3 million. Foreign currency conversions cost of NAAFF £1,000,000 during the year.

Nearly 60 NAAFF staff, including 12 Women's Royal Army Corps girls, continue to operate NAAFF services in the Falklands, which include running the Town Club in Port Stanley.

A total of £20,000 worth of NAAFF supplies are issued to the Falklands garrison each week from the NAAFF Bulk Issue Store on the new Falklands Intermediate Port and Storage System platform in Stanley Sound.

EX-LABOUR MP BEN FORD TO JOIN SDP

By Our Political Correspondent

Mr Ben Ford, 59, former Labour MP who was expelled from the party last year, has applied to join the SDP. He said: "Since my expulsion I have watched the Labour party sink deeper and deeper into the mire."

Both it and the trade union movement are fragmented and there appears no will to deal with the infiltration by the Militant Tendency and other hard-left factions.

Mr Ford was MP for Bradford North for 19 years before his constituency party rejected him as a candidate in favour of Mr Pat Wall. A Militant Tendency supporter, he was expelled after standing as an Independent Labour candidate against Mr Wall at the last general election, when the seat fell to the Conservatives.

Region-by-region total

Coal Board regions gave the following figures for pits working and on strike on Friday, and for the numbers of miners at work. The figures do not take account of "new starters" at coal products plants, or returning NUM clerical staff.

	Normal working	On strike	At work	At work on strike	Total	Workforce
Scotland	1	5	7	2	2,401	12,500
N. East	1	15	17	3	5,218	20,200
N. West	1	12	13	2	800	13,000
Doncaster	1	8	9	1	191	13,000
Barnsley	1	12	13	1	413	13,200
S. Yorks	1	12	13	2	1,803	13,800
S. Derbys	1	7	8	1	4,573	10,000
Notts	25	1	26	1	28,500	30,000
S. Midlands	11	1	12	1	8,100	12,000
W. Midlands	10	7	17	1	11,141	13,600
S. Wales	1	4	5	1	127	2,114
Wales	1	3	4	1	102	2,114

Electric train route pushes northwards

By Our Transport Correspondent

ELECTRIC train services will start to Huntingdon at the end of 1986 and to Peterborough in the autumn of 1987 as British Rail pushes on with its recently-approved scheme to spend £306 million electrifying the route from King's Cross to Edinburgh.

Details of the scheme are given in a BR booklet, showing electric services to reach

Leeds by early 1989 and Edinburgh early in 1991. When completed, BR expects to reduce its running costs by £14 million a year, with maintenance costs down by 25 per cent, and fuel costs cut by 20 per cent.

Electrification involves raising 120 bridges. Other work includes digging 33,000 holes to be filled by 200,000 tons of concrete for foundations to support masts, for overhead wires. Sixty-two new main-line electric locomotives and 324 passenger coaches are to be built.

BA demands quick answers to meet flotation deadline

By ROLAND CRIBBEN Business Correspondent

BRITISH AIRWAYS has told the Government it needs decisions on two outstanding issues in the next 48 hours if it is to meet a Stock Market flotation deadline of mid-February.

BAe SHIFTS AIRBUS WORK TO BRISTOL

By Air Cdre G. S. COOPER Air Correspondent

BRITISH AEROSPACE has transferred control of the £600 million Airbus wing project to Bristol to allow Hatfield to concentrate on its growing programme with the BAe 146 feederliner and 125 executive jet.

Giving details of the crucial roles which BAe sites will play in meeting the extremely tough production schedule for the latest Airbus, the 150-seat A320, the company says all A320 design, manufacturing and project management will be centred on Bristol.

This will include co-ordinating the German, Belgian and Australian contributions to the wings. Final assembly will be at Bristol.

As on the current A300 and A310 models, BAe is making the wings but is to get a larger share of the A320 programme by taking over work from the Germans.

The A320s double-curvature wing represents about 20 per cent of the airframe and is the most technologically-advanced part of it, the company claims.

First flight

The first of the £2 million 74-ton wings has to be delivered to Airbus Industries in Toulouse in May 1987 for first flight in March 1987.

Bristol and Warton will share about half of the production work. The other BAe sites sharing the work are, with rough percentages, Chester (19), Chadderton (5), Weybridge (4), Hatfield (2) and Brough (1).

By 1991 nearly 40 per cent of Bristol's work will be on Airbus, and about a third of the 1500-strong production workforce will be engaged on it.

Present orders for the A320 stand at 51, excluding Pan Am's intended purchase of 16 with options on 34 more.

More cash for road building promised

By JOHN PETTY Transport Correspondent

A REVIEW of the roadbuilding programme is to be made by Mrs Chalker, Transport Minister, following a Transport Department survey showing it has been far too conservative in estimates of traffic growth.

"Meeting the needs of an optimistic, growing economy means a need for further spending," she said.

"Those who suggest the road programme is nearing its end and that effort may be confined to care and maintenance are very far from the truth."

Good weather has made this the best year since 1976 for road building at a cost of almost £900 million. The decision to go ahead with the £202 million Oxford and Birmingham extension of the M40 is another sign of huge spending still planned.

Mrs Chalker also intends to upgrade the standard of road work to give longer life to trunk routes. It could double the life of bitumen roads from 20 to 40 years, apart from routine maintenance, at comparatively little extra cost.

Standards for concrete roads have recently been raised. This is one reason for work being suspended for the winter by the British Road Builders' Association, a consortium which has the contract to construct the Leatherhead-Reigate section of the M25.

Lanes closed

Current motorway repairs notified by the Department, and likely to cause delays, include:

M1: Peak-time traffic affected northbound by repairs in Bedfordshire between junctions 11 and 12.

M2: Contraflows until late December near Medway towns at junction 5 and between junctions 4 and 5.

M3: Contraflow at junction 1, Sunbury Cross, Surrey, until December 24.

M4: Work near Heathrow to create junction with M25.

M5: Lane closures between junctions 4 and 5 near Bromsgrove, until late December. Complete closure of southbound carriageway 9.30 p.m.-6.30 a.m. with diversion via A38.

M6: Contraflow between junctions 10a and 11, Staffordshire, until Dec. 21. Some slip-road closures.

M18: Northbound diversion until Sunday Wadsworth junction, South Yorkshire.

M40: Westbound lane closures in Oxfordshire between junctions 5 and 6, with some diversions via A40.

M50: Contraflow until Jan. 5 between junctions 2 and 3, Leicestershire, with entry and exit slip roads closed at junction 2.

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By Our Transport Correspondent

Electric services will start to Huntingdon at the end of 1986 and to Peterborough in the autumn of 1987 as British Rail pushes on with its recently-approved scheme to spend £306 million electrifying the route from King's Cross to Edinburgh.

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Sir JAMES IN NEW 'GOLDEN' U.S. SORTIE

By TONY ALLEN-MILLS in New York

SIR JAMES GOLDSMITH, the mercurial British financier, has set Wall Street talking with his fourth multi-million-dollar sortie of the year against a major American corporation.

His latest adventure—involving a big forestry products concern—bears all the Goldsmith hallmarks of secret manoeuvring with big profits in prospect.



Sir James Goldsmith—million dollar sortie.

The tipsters and tycoons of the American business establishment are not yet sure just what Sir James is up to—but all are aware that everything he has touched on this side of the Atlantic this year turned rapidly to gold.

The unsuspecting target of the buccaneering British millionaire's latest attentions is the Crown Zellerbach Corporation, a 15-year-old San Francisco-based firm with vast forestry holdings.

It was a measure of Sir James's growing Wall Street reputation that when he was targeted by federal law last week to announce his intent to acquire more than 15 per cent of Crown Zellerbach's stock, shares shot up immediately to a record high for the year.

'Repel boarders'

But the prospect of a takeover bid did not impress the forestry firm's directors, who promptly ordered their lawyers to repel all would-be boarders. A man who courts publicity only when it suits him, Sir James has further titillated Wall Street by playing his cards throughout the episode close to his chest.

No one knows how many Crown Zellerbach shares he now owns, whether he really intends a full takeover bid, or if he is simply out for a quick profit from the jump in share prices.

But financial analysts recall that when Sir James bought up a chunk of shares in the St Regis Paper Products company last May, he sold out later for 50 million dollars profit (£42 million).

After that he took aim at Continental Group Inc., another company with forestry interests, and sold out there for \$35 million (£25 million) profit.

The practice of threatening a takeover bid in order to boost share prices for a quick profit is known as a 'greenmail'. But Sir James has always taken offence if anyone called him a 'greenmailer'.

Although he profited handsomely from his investment in St Regis, he has said he regards the episode as a failure, because he did not take the company over.

5 SURVIVE 200ft CAR PLUNGE

FIVE people, including a three-year-old child, escaped with cuts and bruises when their car careered through motorway safety barriers on the Severn Bridge and plunged 200 ft at the weekend.

"To say they had a lucky escape is an understatement," said a police spokesman.

The Lancia car skidded out of control across the M4 and through two barriers on part of the Severn Bridge where it crosses the River Wye.

After its plunge down an embankment, the car came to rest on the banks of the Wye.

Mr Garry Smart, a 24-year-old ambulance driver, who was one of the first on the scene of the Saturday-night crash, said: "When we got down there the car was all folded in down to the size of a Mini."

"Somehow the car had gone through the crash barrier across a cycle path and then through the steel parapet fencing."

The driver, Sarinda Singh Rai, 25, of Southall, was kept in hospital overnight with back injuries.

The passengers were named as Dip Gill, 40, Balbir Singh Gill, 27, Sukcharan Singh Gill, 25, all from Southall, and the child, Tarcharan Singh Gill, who came from Mid-Glamorgan.

Netos Round-up

Drunken students fined for chapel vandalism

TWO undergraduates at Brasenose College, Oxford, have been fined the maximum penalty by the college authorities and warned about their future conduct after admitting acts of vandalism in the 17th century college chapel.

The students, not named, lit altar candles and left them burning all night, with risk of a serious fire, piled hymn books on the altar and moved the bible from the lectern.

Both are aged 18, and in their second year, studying history and chemistry. They were fined £50, and another £15 for a separate incident when they climbed on to the college roof to examine an ornate door.

Dr John Rowett, junior dean of the college, said: "Both undergraduates owned up the following day after they sobered up. Each wrote letters of apology to the college and the chaplain. It really was a drunken prank."

Youths sought in 'dead rider' hunt

Police investigating the death of a motorcyclist, killed when he rode into a rock-high rope stretched across a road on Bournemouth seafront, are looking for two youths, aged 15 to 18, seen near the crash scene late on Friday night.

The motorcyclist was Vincent Gabriel, of Undercliff Road, Bournemouth, who died on his 22nd birthday.

Yard hold man in Diego Garcia

Scotland Yard detectives investigating the murder of a civilian worker on the tiny artificial island of Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean have charged a Royal Marine.

The body of the Filipino, who works for an Anglo-American firm contracted to build harbour and runway facilities, was found inside the American base 11 days ago.

Greeks to question terror suspect

An Arab terrorist suspect wanted for questioning about a series of bomb explosions in

Sailor plunges 60ft on to girl

A sailor who fell 60ft down the stairwell of a crowded store and the 16-year-old school-girl on whom he landed were both in a stable condition in hospital with back injuries yesterday.

Navy mechanic Kevin Brewerton from the frigate Leander fell four storeys on to Kit Wah Wong at a Plymouth Co-operative store. Another man hit by the falling sailor was treated for cuts.

Death trial

writer appeals

Helen Hough, the crime novelist jailed for nine months at the Old Bailey on Friday for helping an 83-year-old friend to commit suicide, is to appeal against the sentence.

Mrs Hough, 60, of Ivor Street, Camden Town, pleaded guilty to the attempted murder of Miss Annette Harding. The appeal is due to be heard this week.

Forced landing

Four people escaped unhurt when a light aircraft made a forced landing in a field at Canewdon, Essex, yesterday shortly after taking off from Southend airport. The pilot said the plane had engine trouble.

Pop silenced

Libraries in East Sussex are to stop buying pop records, because they go out of fashion too quickly. The cash will be spent, instead, on records with more "lasting appeal."



A Sea Vixen jet fighter being towed along a dual carriageway at Christchurch, Dorset, yesterday to the former site of de Havilland's factory, where it will stand as a memorial to the town's aviation past. A local property developer raised funds to buy the aircraft after Mr Michael Chaplin, founder of the Sea Vixen Society, read of the connection in old aviation magazines.

Bulgaria caught shipping counterfeit whisky

A BULGARIAN state trading company has been caught "red-handed" attempting to deliver a shipment of bogus Johnny Walker whisky to Africa.

The first shipment in a consignment of 2,500 cases of whisky was intercepted in Italy by Customs officials after being sent from Sofia via Greece for shipment from Trieste to Africa.

The Confederation of British

By ROLAND GRIBBEN Business Correspondent

Industry, highlighting the case today, is urging member companies to keep a closer watch on product counterfeiting attempts by Communist bloc and Far Eastern countries.

The whisky consignment was a complete forgery, said the C.B.I. Labels, caps and cardboard cases were counterfeit and the bottles closely resembled the standard Johnny Walker product.

The whisky was described on

the transport documents as "neutral alcohol."

Only small tell-tale signs such as a green line to the glass indicated that the product was a fake.

The C.B.I. said that the evidence clearly showed the Bulgarian origin of the consignment.

The invoices were from a Sofia company and the transport documents showed the goods had been sent by Des-

pred, the state forwarding agency.

Requests from Distillers, the Johnnie Walker owners, to the Bulgarian Embassy in London to investigate the case and halt the remaining deliveries have failed to produce a response.

The C.B.I. said that the silence of the Bulgarian authorities raised uncomfortable questions.

"This silence is discouraging because counterfeiting is widely recognised as a blatant criminal fraud," it said.

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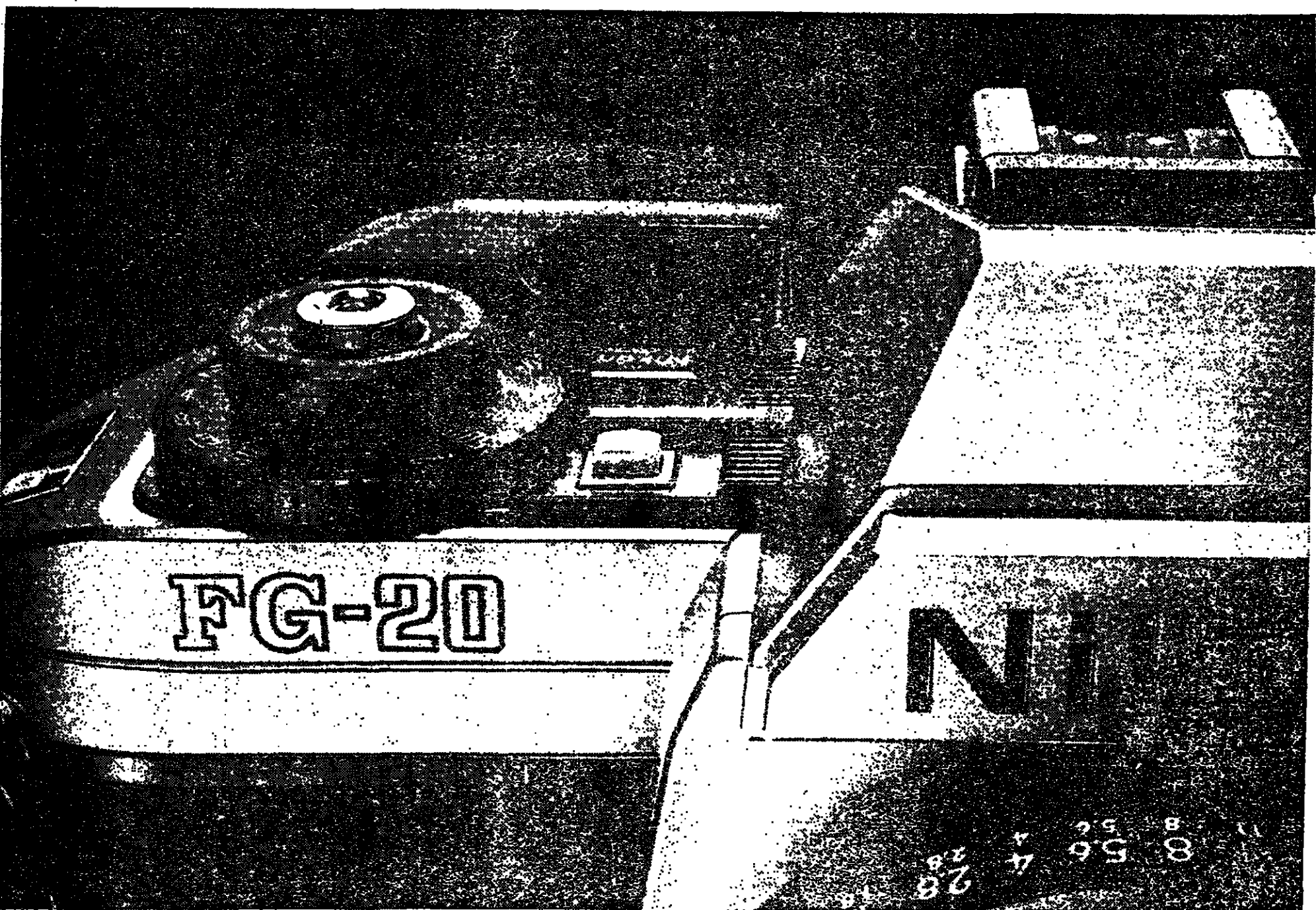
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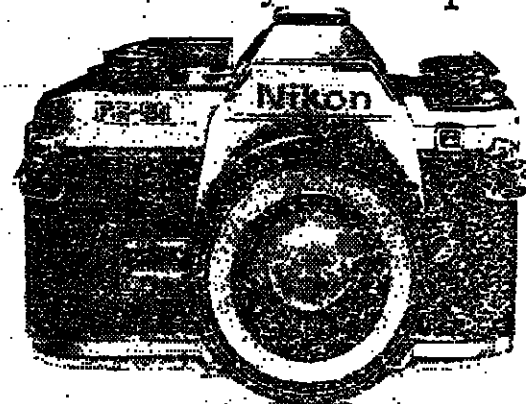
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GREAT HALL IN PEKING READY FOR THATCHER

By HUGH DAVIES in Peking

A mild but relentless snowstorm in Peking workmen spent hours clearing ice from the high steps of the Great Hall of the People yesterday in readiness for Mrs Thatcher's return to the Land of the Dragon.

She is to be given a 19-gun salute, and all is expected to run smoothly on Wednesday. On her last visit in October, 1982, she stumbled on the steps and fell to her hands and knees.

She was also drawn then into a tough confrontation with the Chinese communist hierarchy over its "sacred mission" to reclaim Hong-kong.

Teng Hsiao-ping, the main Chinese leader, was reportedly to have found Mrs Thatcher in a post-Falklands mood causing him to wonder to an aide: "I can't talk to this woman. She is utterly unreasonable."

Judging by the tone of the Peking Press, all is now sweetness and light, however. Outlook, a leading political magazine published a flattering article last night congratulating Mrs Thatcher on being so far-sighted.

A "fellow-pragmatist" China is preparing a brief but flawlessly orchestrated reception—cordial talks, ritual ceremonial, and a fine banquet at which sea slugs are to be served for a "fellow-pragmatist" of Teng.

Ag Ke Hua, a former Chinese envoy to the Court of St James, quietly observed at the weekend, Mrs Thatcher is now the toast of Peking. He called her "an outstanding woman with vision."

He said she had sized up the Hongkong situation and "fully understood" China's unique concept of maintaining the territory as a capitalist enclave in a Marxist state.

"She then made a sensible policy decision at a critical juncture of the negotiations, thus pushing the Sino-British talks into a breakthrough," he added.

Ke, Ambassador to Britain from 1978 to 1983, was referring to Mrs Thatcher's still controversial conclusion that it would be unwise to keep pressing Peking for a British role in the governing of Hongkong once it was back in Chinese hands in July, 1997.

Mrs Thatcher, in written replies to questions put to her in London by the New China news agency, described the so-called "one country, two systems" idea as imaginative.

Both sides were determined.

Geneva talks clear way for Genscher trip East

By MICHAEL FARR in Bonn

HERR GENSCHER, West German Foreign Minister, will this week try to resume Bonn's efforts to promote the East-West dialogue with a three-day visit to Prague.

His previous attempt was short-circuited last month when he was forced to cancel a visit to Warsaw only hours before his departure because of "unacceptable conditions" set by the Polish Government.

But officials in Bonn were optimistic about the Prague visit—his first since February 1983, going ahead in view of the recent signs of an improved climate between Washington and Moscow.

Apart from the Soviet-American agreement that their foreign Ministers should meet next month in Geneva for talks, a meeting of Warsaw Pact Foreign Ministers in East Berlin early this month called for a return to détente, dialogue and negotiations.

A desire for a relaxation of East-West tension and a resump-

Quiet burial for purged police chief

By NIGEL WADE in Moscow

THE former Chief of Soviet Police, Mr Nikolai Shchokolov, 73, who was disgraced and facing possible trial for corruption, was buried quietly in Moscow at the weekend.

Witnesses of the unannounced ceremony, watched over by plainclothes security guards, said the coffin was sealed as it went to the grave on Saturday. Russian coffins are traditionally left open until the last moment before burial.

This suggests that Mr Shchokolov may have killed himself, but firm conclusions cannot be drawn.

Plainclothes guards were again present yesterday as relatives placed red wine and bread topped with red caviar at the graveside.

A simple metal plaque fixed in deep snow behind green railings said "Nikolai Dmitriyevich Shchokolov, died Dec. 15, 1984."

No death notice was published in the Soviet Press, where the most recent report about Mr Shchokolov, last month, was that he had been stripped of his rank as general.

Date of dismissal

Mr Shchokolov, a life-long crony of President Brezhnev, ran a notoriously corrupt civil police force as Minister of Internal Affairs for nearly 20 years.

He was the first to fall in President Andropov's anti-corruption drive. Mr Andropov sacked him a month after Mr Brezhnev's death in 1982.

He was replaced by one of Mr Andropov's former deputies in the KGB security organisation, Mr Viktor Fedorchuk. Mr Fedorchuk has since conducted a thorough house-cleaning within the civil police.

Mr Shchokolov was expelled from the Communist party's



Mr Nikolai Shchokolov.

Central Committee in June last year, and the recent stripping of his rank removed the last barrier to possible prosecution.

After appearing to falter in the early days of President Chernenko's term, the crack-down on corruption began by Mr Andropov has been carried forward decisively.

The manner of Moscow's best-known food store was shot for corruption earlier this year. It seems Mr Shchokolov's death, however caused, may have been hastened by the shadow of similar punishment looming over him.

BATTLE OF BULGE 'NUTS' MEMENTO

Several cities in the Belgian Ardennes region commemorated the 40th anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge, the last serious attempt by Nazi Germany to turn back Allied forces on the Western Front.

The American Gen. George S. Patton's grand daughter Margaret threw nuts at a crowd of onlookers in a commemorative ceremony. The nuts were comment the surrounded American Gen. McAuliffe when asked by the Germans to surrender.—A.P.

CLAY WARRIORS FOUND IN CHINA

Chinese archaeologists have unearthed more than 1000 terracotta warriors, 12in high, and model horses, dating back to the Han Dynasty of 206 B.C. to 220 A.D.

The find, in the coastal province of Jiangsu by a worker driving a bulldozer, ranked second only to the discovery in 1974 of life-size terracotta soldiers near the ancient former imperial capital of Xian in central China, said the official PEOPLE'S DAILY.—Reuters.

ACTIVISTS HIDE FROM TROOPS

More than 100 Pakistani political activists today hid from President Zia went into hiding yesterday as troops appeared on Karachi streets during the run-up to a controversial national referendum on Wednesday.

The referendum would give the President, who seized power in 1977, a five-year mandate to continue in office. Conspiring against the referendum has been outlawed.—Reuters.

PANDA RESCUE

A big rescue operation is being mounted to save 42 starved to death when their staple food, arrow bamboo, entered a rare flowering cycle and withered.—A.P.

REBELS KILL 11

Anti-communist rebels in Mozambique killed 11 people in an ambush of four civilian vehicles near the Swaziland border.



Mr Michael Foot, former leader of the Labour party, attending the closing session of the Spanish Socialist Congress in Madrid yesterday.

Support won to keep Spain inside Nato

By TIM BROWN in Madrid

SOLID support of Spain's ruling Socialist party for keeping the country in Nato was won at the weekend by Senor Felipe Gonzalez, the Prime Minister.

This result, a personal triumph, clears the way for the Government to mount a pro-Nato campaign for the proposed referendum on the issue due in February, 1985, a month after the target date for Spain to join the EEC.

The support was won in a crucial three-hour debate on foreign policy lasting until early yesterday at the Spanish Socialist party's congress in Madrid.

Senor Gonzalez, 42 who a few hours later was unanimously re-elected as party leader, took the chief role in the debate as a powerful Left-wing element tried to push through three amendments that would have reversed official policy and put the party in favour of pulling out of Nato.

Only once in the sometimes heated debate was an official count necessary among some 700 delegates.

That came on the second amendment, which called for withdrawal from Nato, an end to the military bases agreement with the United States, and a

policy instead of bilateral defence agreements. The result was 394 votes against the amendment and 268 in favour, with 25 abstentions. Eighty delegates were not in the chamber for the vote.

The other amendments, one calling for a policy of neutrality, were lost with a show of cards. Senor Gonzalez was at times in brilliant form as he dismissed, often with scorn, the Left-wing demands for neutrality and suggestions that Spain, by staying in Nato, would be just another member of a powerful bloc.

"To say that to take up arms in defence of freedom is wrong is a profound mistake," he said to stand-up applause from many delegates.

He declared: "If I had been the one to take Spain into the Atlantic alliance, I would not have done so. But in the two years of Socialist government Spain has not lost one iota of its freedom to carry out its own foreign policy."

In principle he was still against military blocs, but he believed that for Spain the price of leaving Nato would be greater than that of staying in the alliance.

'Spendthrift' U.N. body attacked by Britain

By MICHAEL KALLENBACH at the United Nations

BRITAIN has voiced strong protests about excessive spending by the United Nations Council for Namibia and has dissociated itself from the allocation of an additional \$4 million (£3.3 million) for travel.

Despite passage of the item by the General Assembly, the British delegate in the United Nations Fifth (Budget) Committee has questioned the Council's budgetary procedures.

The delegate, Mr Andrew Murray, has asked the Council to respond to a recent plea by Senor Perez de Cuellar, Secretary-General, to reduce travel spending.

The Namibia Council held a meeting in Bangkok earlier this year which cost more than \$300,000 (£219,000). Next year it plans several additional meetings "somewhere in Europe."

Mr Murray doubted that the Namibian people "significantly benefit by the decision to hold meetings away from headquarters."

"It seems that the principal beneficiaries are rather the members of the Council and other participants, along with the local hoteliers and tourist trade."

Restraint call He pointed out that the spending of an extra \$4 million was in addition to the \$10 million (£8.3 million) already appropriated for next year.

Mr Murray said that at a time when major powers at the United Nations were urging restraint, with unusual co-operation from Washington and Moscow, "this request does not suggest restraint at all."

Another British diplomat involved with the Namibia question said few people outside the United Nations realised what it entailed to hold a meeting away from headquarters in

Greek demands dominate EEC expansion talks

By ALAN OSBORN Common Market Correspondent

UNCERTAINTIES about enlargement of the EEC to 12 members from 10 will dominate a two-day meeting of Foreign Ministers beginning in Brussels today.

The doubts are due to Greece. Mr Papandreu, Greek Prime Minister, served notice at the Dublin summit meeting two weeks ago that Athens would block the EEC entry of Spain and Portugal until a £4 billion programme for aiding backward Mediterranean areas had been agreed.

Mrs Thatcher said in Dublin the Greek demands were "out of the question."

This unexpected Greek move marred what was otherwise a successful summit with considerable progress made on drawing up an offer on wine, fish, and agriculture to Spain and Portugal.

Williness not clear Whether these two countries will find the proposed deals satisfactory is another matter. The impression is that while both are unhappy about the offer, they will negotiate since that rejection would almost certainly put the proposed entry date of Jan. 1, 1986, beyond reach.

But the big question is as to the Greek Government's attitude. Mr Papandreu said that Athens was prepared to allow entry negotiations to continue

but would veto enlargement of the so-called integrated Mediterranean Programmes had not been agreed. It is nevertheless not entirely clear how willing Greece will be to allow progress in the negotiations, especially over wine.

The Foreign Ministers are to examine the ambitious Mediterranean scheme this week, but the chances of progress sufficient to satisfy Greece are very doubtful.

The scheme, proposed by the Brussels EEC Commission in 1983, is aimed at compensating parts of France and Italy as a whole of Greece for effects of EEC enlargement. It would help to modernise agriculture and develop industry, energy, and tourism.

Greece's share of the total Community money proposed is put at £1.5 billion. The scheme has received practically no backing from other EEC Governments and only token funds have been set aside.

The deadline for agreement on terms of entry for Spain and Portugal is now March, when there will be an EEC summit meeting. This would apparently leave just enough time for changes in the Treaties to be ratified by member Parliaments of the Ten before the start of 1986.

But Mr Gaston Thorn, president of the Commission, expressed serious doubt that the deadline can be met.

Gaddafi presents bill for Italian occupation

By JAMES ALLAN in Tripoli

COL. GADDAFI is demanding compensation from Italy for 32 years of occupation, 40 years after Libya ceased to be an Italian colony. No figure has been named.

But Col. Gaddafi says the compensation must cover the 750,000 Libyans he claims died during Italy's rule from 1911 until its defeat by the Allies in 1943.

Signor Andreotti, the Italian Foreign Minister and former Premier, said during a recent visit to Tripoli that Italy would pay for a new hospital if details could be agreed.

A spokesman at the Italian Embassy in Tripoli said yesterday: "They have never given us a figure but from time to time add something else—people wounded and killed, hospitals and schools and some injured by mines from the 1939-45 War and so on."

Signor Andreotti proposed a hospital and said if they accepted we could discuss how big a project it would be, but there has been no official reaction. I think Signor Andreotti will just give up the idea."

Col Gaddafi said in a recent interview with an Italian newspaper that in addition to a hospital "we want to know from Italy the names of our citizens who were removed during the period of colonialism, as well as the fate of their wives and children."

Hostage threat He saw the proposed hospital as merely a starting point for negotiations. If the problem was not solved, he warned, some Libyans might act on their own and seize Italian assets or demand the confiscation of Italian companies.

Italy signed a friendship treaty with Libya in 1956 when it paid more than £1.5 million in what it thought were final reparations for its period as a colonial power, but Col Gaddafi has rejected the deal with the former regime of King Idris whom he deposed in 1969.

Col Gaddafi claimed in the same interview that Libya had not fallen into a trap set by Egypt concerning the plot to kill Mr Bakoush, the Libyan Premier as King Idris, for which two British and two Maltese are facing trial in Egypt.

Photographs of Mr Bakoush, apparently dead, were published by the Egyptians, Libya announced it had been responsible and the Egyptians produced Mr Bakoush alive and well.

Col Gaddafi claimed it was in fact Egypt which had fallen for a Libyan plan to expose Egypt.

We succeeded in showing the Egyptian regime protect the enemies of our people, the tools of the defunct monarchy," he said.

IRAQI EXOCET ATTACK ON SHIP

Iraqi jet fighters yesterday fired an Exocet missile into the crippled Greek supertanker Ninemia near Iran's Kharg Island, damaging it for the second time in two days. Two crewmen were killed in the first attack.

Earlier Iraq claimed its warplanes hit a "large naval target" near Kharg but it was not confirmed.—A.P.

VISIT RULED OUT BY DALAI LAMA

The Dalai Lama, Tibet's exiled spiritual leader, yesterday ruled out a visit to his homeland next year, saying Peking was insisting that he go to China he stayed in the capital.

There was no question of his returning unless the Tibetan issue was resolved to its people's full satisfaction, said the Buddhist leader, 49, speaking in New Delhi.—Reuters.

NUCLEAR TESTS

Russia and America yesterday conducted underground nuclear explosions. It was America's 14th this year.—Reuters.

FUMES KILL 20

Gas fumes from home-heating coal have killed at least 20 people in Peking this month, most in poorly-ventilated homes.—A.P.

POPE BLESSES STATUETTES

The Pope yesterday was flanked for the first time by children instead of clergymen when he gave his weekly Angelus blessing from a Vatican window.

Five Rome children peeped from the window alongside the Pope as he blessed thousands of statues of the infant Jesus held by young pilgrims in St Peter's Square.—Reuters.

CUBANS DEAL ONLY A MODEST BREAKTHROUGH

By Our Washington Staff The agreement to repatriate nearly 3,000 Cuban "undesirables" to Cuba from American prisons and hospitals is viewed by both sides as a modest breakthrough in relations. But neither appears to see it as more.

In the White House's view it "does not entail any change in policy towards Cuba" and Cuba's Deputy Foreign Minister, Senor Ricardo Alarcon, who helped to negotiate the deal, said it could not be regarded as an opening for broader negotiations.

The White House spokesman, Mr Larry Speakes, said America wanted deeds, not words "to prove that Cuba was re-entering the family of nations" in Central America.

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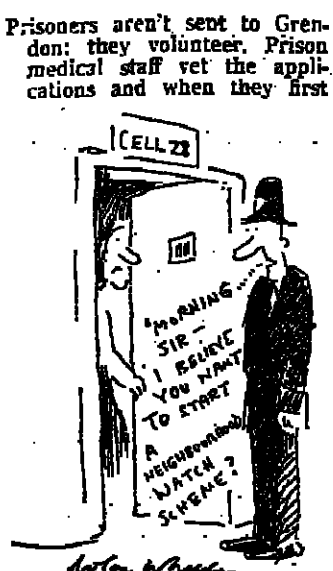
NOTEBOOK: TIM HEALD

Signpost to the straight & narrow

AT FIRST glance Grendon gives off very much the same vibes as one of our newer provincial universities: a garden campus neat with roses and pampas grass; boss man, a slightly shuffling figure with long, greynish hair and a deer-stalker — clearly a renegade from All Souls; executive corridors busy with smiling girls clutching sheaves of paper; foundation stone laid by Lord ("Rab") Butler.

I spent a fascinating day there recently and one particular item reminded me every moment that the first glance impression is quite wrong. The Grendon equivalent of canned music is a jangling of keys on chairs, for every member of the staff carries a heavy chain with keys attached to his trousers. Grendon is not a rural ivory tower. Grendon's inmates have burgled and raped, and assaulted and killed. Grendon is jail.

There are four adult wings at Grendon, which is between Aylesbury and Bicester, and two for young offenders. "B" wing has about 40 inmates and my hosts were Edgar Darling, a psychologist, and Alan Jackson, a senior hospital officer. They were the men in charge, although during the wing meeting the chair was taken by an inmate (drugs and burglary). Part of the Grendon experiment is to reverse traditional roles. In a game of indoor hockey the other day Governor Selby was sent off for rough play. The referee who booked him was a convicted prisoner. There is no way out for the prisoners but once they are locked in they can move about quite freely and they call the prison officers by their Christian names. Just like the Dragon School, Oxford. Each wing has a television. Decisions about which programmes are watched are taken by vote every afternoon.



Prisoners aren't sent to Grendon; they volunteer. Prison medical staff vet the applications and when they first arrive they spend some time in the hospital wing being assessed. Then they are assigned to a wing. The cure of the treatment is "therapy", a word from which everyone I spoke to fought shy but for which no one could provide an alternative. Therapy in action can be seen in two sorts of session. Three mornings a week a group of about eight inmates meet to talk under the supervision of a member of staff. Three afternoons a week the entire wing — staff and prisoners — get together for a talk-in chaired by an inmate elected by the other prisoners.

In the television room Edgar, the psychologist, was sitting on a corner sofa listening unobtrusively as a dark-haired man with a moustache spoke volubly about his past life and his apprehensions about resuming it. He was very Scottish. "I do a burglary every day," he was saying. "It's my way of life. I do it for the alcohol." When he'd finished he looked up at me, smiled and said, "My name's Jim. I'm an alcoholic." He was in for burglary. One by one the group told me

their Christian names, their offences and their sentences: five years, three, arson, robbery with violence. It was like a macabre pastiche of "University Challenge." For "I'm Fiona reading Greats at Christ Church," read, "I'm Mac doing three years for manslaughter."

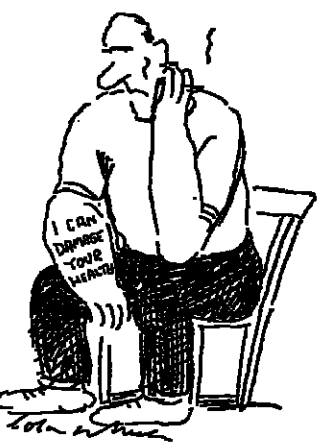
Then everyone had a go at Jim. Jim's sentence was almost over, and he was frowning. One of the others was telling him, persuasively, about Alcoholics Anonymous. Edgar sat silently in his gold-rimmed glasses listening attentively.

The atmosphere was intense, solemn, heavy with smoke from home-rolled cigarettes. A plastic jug of tea was passed round. Almost everyone seemed to have tattoos. Some hands and forearms were covered in crudely executed letters and designs. Some men spoke often, some were silent. No one seemed anything but serious and the concentration had a quality which reminded me oddly of a Quaker meeting.

Dead on the hour the group dispersed and spokesmen from all the others came in to report their meetings; a long, harrowing first-hand account of a murder at the end of which the murderer had broken down and wept; one man disgruntled because the Governor had been less generous over parole than he had expected; a third having a row with a prison officer but getting no support from his peers.

After lunch with Michael Selby, Grendon's governor, I had a session with four of the medical staff and a guided tour by one of the prison officers. Earlier I had talked to the Governor, his deputy and other officers. They all had different views but they were unanimous in saying that despite appearances Grendon was a tough option. Inmates were forced to face up to the crimes they had committed and discuss them with others; they were required to live with others in

a community — not isolated in locked cells; they were encouraged, constantly, to grow up and to change. That afternoon I sat in on a meeting of the whole of "B" wing. Most of the hour was taken up with two individuals. The first was a habitually violent criminal who had given someone a shove in the kitchen. You don't fight in Grendon. Not therapeutic. As with the morning meeting the atmosphere was extraordinarily sombre. Everyone spoke softly, some very faintly with fairly glib-sounding, faintly psychiatric clichés; others haltingly with a three- or four-word vocabulary unrepeatable in a family party. The man under cross-examination was barely audible, face buried in hand, seemingly quite anguished.



"What made you lose your temper?" "Anger, Frustration." "What makes you feel frustrated?" "Dunno." "Six months ago," said someone, "he wouldn't just have pushed him, he'd have hit him on the chin. That's progress." That discussion faded away into something of a mumble but the next was far more animated. Someone had gone into Dave's cell that morning and smashed up the

frames on his treasured photographs. "It's the first time," he said, very haltingly, "for a long time that I've really wanted to do someone some damage. I've gone out of my way to help people in this wing and now..."

It was an ironic moment. He was displaying exactly the emotions that I had done when a few years ago someone — probably someone like him — had broken into my home and made off with many of my most treasured possessions.

Much of the ensuing discussion was just obscene abuse. Then the inmates rounded on the staff and particularly the senior hospital officer, Alan Jackson. People, they insisted, couldn't be trusted. The cell doors should be locked. If you left them open things like this were bound to happen. Thieves and vandals would run amok. It shouldn't be allowed. Lock the cells. Jackson was furious. "I don't see what you solve by locking doors," he said. "You're here to live as a community and sort yourselves out. You can have conventionalism if you want but I think it's counter-productive. There are people covering up for each other here and you're not going to help each other by doing that. You shouldn't be asking ME to solve it. YOU'RE the community. YOU solve it."

Total role reversal: convicts demanding locked cells: "screws" refusing: just one of the Grendon paradoxes. In an ordinary prison the prisoner is kept in custody and spewed out probably more criminal than he was before. That can happen at Grendon, but every last effort is being made — often as much by inmates as others — to make sure it doesn't. After more than 20 years it's still regarded as an experiment and the results are thought of as dubious or unproven. I don't know if Grendon "makes better people" but I do know that they try.

GEOFFREY FLETCHER'S LONDON

Changing faces

IN MY book, there is no such thing as a redundant church — although there may be some clerics who ought to be made redundant. One church in London which has comfortably escaped the "redundant" label by merit, as it were, changing its congregation, is the London University Church of Christ the King in Gordon Square, the well-advised heart of Bloomsbury.

Build by R. Brandm, this was formerly the Catholic Apostolic Church, belonging to the community who gathered round Edward Irving, Carlyle's friend and a preacher of such tremendous power that when he was preaching the streets were said to be blocked with carriages.

Brandm was one of the most scholarly and gifted of the earlier Gothic Revivalists — much more so than Pugin, who was largely a designer and decorator — and his great church built of Bath stone in 1851-55, though unfinished (the tower and spire were never completed), is a most marvellous recreation of Early English style. When it changed its allegiance, it was a much less rum transformation than that of another Bloomsbury land, the Theosophists' Hall, which forms part of what is now the complex of buildings of the B.M.A.



London University Church, Bloomsbury

Drawing by GEOFFREY FLETCHER

the Methodist Central Hall — was a notable dud; even a white whale and performing lions failed to attract the Victorian public. This was merely a bad speculation. What is more serious is the lengthening list of buildings no longer fulfilling their original purpose. In my hands, bingoed cinema would revert to films. When Lancashire cotton mills are turned into postal shopping depots (I know one that has become a sausage ball), the Manchester Cotton Exchange has become a leisure

centre and the warehouses of our great ports are transformed into flats, tourist attractions and museums, we have in fact, an index to a profound internal upheaval and a national degeneration. It is true that at the Reformation abbey and convent buildings were turned into cowsheds and that the railways pushed the stage coach system out of business, but these movements were a sign of life. What we have today is something quite different and very nasty.

Where manana takes on a new meaning

AT least some of the British community on the Costa del Sol are showing sun-froid amid all the recent reports of mugging and other unpleasantness: hundreds of people the British police would like to interview are staying on, undeterred by the news that Spain and Britain are going ahead with a tougher extradition treaty.

One jet-setter whose own past would not bear close scrutiny likened it to the British in war-time Singapore. The Brits then sipped pink gin, stroked tennis balls and conversed politely even as the Japs rushed south through the Malayan peninsula. When the warrant-bearing policemen and inland Revenue inspectors eventually move south through the Iberian peninsula, some of the interesting characters will no doubt have gone, those staying on will have been seduced by inertia, cuba libre and an attachment for a sybaritic life in the sun.

Besides, a lot of those sought by the Yard have, like Mrs Thatcher in the property-owning democracy. One such — who assured me he will not be leaving — is Ronnie Knight, estranged husband of the "Carry On" actress Barbara Windsor. Police would like to see Knight about a £6 million said in Shoreditch last year on Security Express, but he denies any involvement.

A short walk from Knight's villa with its spectacular views of the Mediterranean is another opulent home, this one belonging to Clifford Saxe, former landlord of the Fox in Kingsland Road, Hackney. There, it has been alleged, details of the Shoreditch raid were drawn up along with the plan to claim Saxe has always strenuously denied.

Saxe is grooved, bespectacled, wearing an open-neck shirt — one has made a point of calling before lunch but it is already

Last week the Spanish Cabinet approved a draft law to expel foreigners engaged in crime. PETER PALLOT has been mixing with those serving time on the Costa del Sol

warm. In the V of the open neck glints a gold necklace of exceptional weight. From a deep, sustained wrist whence dangles a chain of still greater weight, a finger threatens. It points to the reinforced gate indicating my exit. Mr Saxe is not receiving visitors today.

The buzz on Knight and Co is that they have opened a bar in Los Boliches. It's Friday night so why not drop in? This was the Palladium Bar, renamed The Office. The reason becomes apparent when one sees men who look like extras from "The Untouchables" swilling scotch and talking in Cuckney rhyming slang.

They wear £500 leather jackets, with jewellery of exquisite bad taste, and have professionally manicured fingernails and hairstyles you see in barbers' windows. A woman wears a gold necklace with the legend "Doreen" in half-inch gold capitals. About to engage one of Doreen's friends in conversation, my mouth goes dry and legs feel weak. Chicken, I leave, my beer unfinished.

In the 100 years of Britain's previous extradition treaty with Spain, 14 Britons were in fact returned by Spain, while only one went the other way, despite 44 applications for extradition by the Spanish authorities. Spain, therefore, can hardly be blamed for tearing up the treaty.

In economic terms that must have helped her. No one can estimate the sums of money "laundered" through Spain, but it is said that, for instance, the Shoreditch cash bought property worth at least £1 million. Larousse being spread from one villa is allegedly part of the proceeds from a £40 million VAT gold racket. Meanwhile Judah

Binstock, wanted for inquiries in connection with an alleged £2 million currency swindle, throws lavish parties at his £500,000 Marbella villa.

At Marbella one breakfasts at the Costa Dock pavement café to watch the world and a hood or three go by. The café forms part of Parque Marbella, a luxury development on the port. This is where three of Knight's buddies — Freddie Foreman, John Everett and John Mason — have between them bought eight £70,000 apartments.

Then to Puerto Banus. This is a sort of Torremolinos for the middle classes. Luxury yachts cram the marina. Many are said to be the rewards of sin, bought by landlubbers to "launder" money.

The sex industry has a firm leg hold here. At the Ly Sauna-massage parlour (above the No-No-sexy International Night Club) the charge is £50, payable by credit card. But here we do everything," says a severely underdressed girl.

The Navy disco-bar in Puerto Banus. One o'clock in the morning. Enter Brian Doran, sought by Glasgow police for nearly 18 months in connection with cocaine smuggling charges. My offer of a drink is declined. One of four minor-league Doran with a strong Glaswegian accent, says: "P — off." A girl is persuaded to approach Doran. Her offer of a dance is rejected, but one of the group gallantly agrees — only, it transpires, to sue me out.

To palm-treeed San Pedro to cateract an encaement party. The venue is the Meson San Pedro, a chic eatery in the main square. One of the joint owners is Joan Ednorworth, big, bluff, bearded and amusing. Ednorworth came here soon after the old extradition treaty ended in

1978. The Treasury wanted to question him about the sudden collapse of a company.

"I'm in the clear. I'm not wanted by anyone in England," booms Ednorworth.

"Except by your second wife with a maintenance order," chips in a wit. This is "Screw." Leonard Scruton, who left Britain after an official inquiry criticised his conduct of a company, Burnholme and Forder, and a related company, Motor Rail. The Treasury also wanted to interview Scruton over matters arising from the now-defunct dollar premium surcharge.

It seems indelicate to raise these matters as Screw celebrates his engagement. His fiancée, a charmer called Mary, shows me the ring and to laughter all round points out one problem: Screw is already married.

Ednorworth and Scruton are described by another guest as the best double act on the coast. One thing is sure — the Meson serves an excellent steak.

Among others who are greasing the wheels of the Spanish economy are Ken Grob, a director of Alexander Howden, the insurance group from which £42 million was allegedly misappropriated; Malcolm Ross, wanted by police after a £2 million property deal in Birmingham, and his friend Robert Chavira, the West Midlands jeweller who disappeared at the same time as £3 million in stock from his shops.

What do the less colourful British residents make of it? The unwritten law on the Costa seems to be that you never inquire too deeply. "Half the bars in Marbella are owned by cranks," but you've still got to drink," one law-abider told me. And another: "I went to a party yesterday and someone

just pointed round the room — a pornographer there, a City swindler next to him, a crooked arms dealer in the same group. A tax dodger there — well, tax dodgers are everywhere here."

The spirit of laissez-faire seems to be epitomised by the fact that Robert Chatwin is able to land a job selling villas. His managing director, Manuel Martin, described Chatwin as: "One of our better salesmen — he has many rich contacts in England, but he's a bit over-optimistic. He oversells. We have to put the brake on him."

Big spenders are not unpopular. One man I met in Tio Sam's in Torremolinos, a neighbour of Clifford Saxe, said: "We were all down the Capelania beach bar the other day and in between the drinks he says, 'booze till it comes out of your ears and as much as you can eat. How can you knock a guy like that?'"

Many crimes in this sunny spot for shady characters are drug related. Some 800 Spanish and British residents of Nuria recently staged a meeting to protest at short-armed drug addicts. One of the problems is that the Costa falls on a main trafficking route.

Malaga police are keen to emphasise that they are co-operating fully with Scotland Yard, who have three men permanently here, one a Spanish speaker. The soaring crime rate includes the making of particularly unpleasant pornography involving minors and violent street crime, often with tourists as the victims, sometimes ending in murder.

The civil governor, Senor Plazido Cande, took up the theme: "We are not going to let the Costa del Sol become a Marselles." By one of life's rich ironies, when I returned to my car from his office I found a side window smashed and all contents removed. In an attended car park. Perhaps the Costa Del Crime really is the bit of Spain that fell off the back of a lorry.

FARMER'S DIARY

JAMES GLADSTONE

AGRICULTURALLY we are two nations. Those who farm good arable land have had an easy year. Those who farm livestock, and particularly dairy cattle, have more to worry about than ever.

In the past, the differences have caused no more than friendly rivalry and mild envy, but in the past few years feelings have hardened to antagonism and resentment.

The division runs down the centre of the separating fence. It has been blurred edges — mixed farms and shared interests — but the East Anglian grain baron and the Dyfed dairy farmer have no more in common than the unemployed Liverpool dockworker and the South-gate commuter of the political two nations.

Those of us in the west who rely on livestock and grow wheat and barley on land that is hardly suitable for it, have a picture of the east which is distorted by jealousy. What does the corn man do all winter, while we are feeding sheep and milking cows? We like to think that the only decision he faces, over the shooting season is over, is whether to head for Barbados or Courchevel.

Similarly, and equally unfairly, the men from the east dismiss us as "cow-keepers," a term which implies a peasant approach to the arming-mud, muck and middle. Currently both the Minister of Agriculture and the President of the National Farmers' Union are seen as eastern arable men (the Minister farms Grade I land in Yorkshire; Sir Richard Butler, the President, is a dairy farmer in Lincolnshire).

It is unfortunate that in the year in which milk quotas were so abruptly imposed, livestock farmers could see no sympathetic cow-keeper at the top of farming's establishment. This has provoked anger within the industry in England and Wales. The Scottish Farmers' Union does not give the same impression of arable bias.

The resentment comes from economic envy. At least one farming company, which man-

Land of haves and have nots

'Divided Britain' extends to agriculture

ages many thousands acres for a large financial institution, makes it a rule to have no animals on the farms at all. Its directors say that the savings in labour and increase in profits realised when the cows go always exceed their estimates.

That is only true on good quality land. The Minister has said that people growing corn on poor land "will have to consider alternative enterprises." More resentment stems from the fact that the three obvious alternatives — beef, sheep and milk — are all in surplus. Similarly, for many dairy farms, there is no obvious alternative to milk. On good land, however, corn, oilseed rape, vegetables, all kinds of crops are possible.

The contrast between prosperous east and quagmired west is a point to remember when the Ministry of Agriculture produces figures, as it soon surely will, to show that the average farm income in 1984 was up on the figure for 1983. The figure of 20 per cent has already been quoted.

There is no such thing as an average farm. The dry summer, which brought such excellent crops for the arable men, brought only a serious shortage of grass for the cow-keepers.

The differences were plain inside Earls Court during Smithfield week. The livestock farmers at the back of the hall in the cattle lines were nervous of the future and still simmering about the injustices of the year. The arable men were busy in the machinery lines, keen to buy tractors and combines before the clamp-down on capital allowances and corporation tax in April.

Such accountants' niceties are of no interest to dairy farmers this year: the cut in their income means many of them will have no profits to spend. While at least one East Anglian supplier of arable machinery used the word "boom" at Smithfield, the dairy equipment supplier in Dumfries has no work for his one remaining fitter.

I felt the contrast particularly strongly because I travelled to Smithfield from the Galloway farm. At exactly the moment that the show was opening, the gleaming machines receiving their final polishes and the cattle their last shampoos and blow-dries before stepping on to the white sawdust of the pristine ring. I was in Scotland staring into what is euphemistically known as the slurry tank, although there are cruder names for it.

The rain was sheeting in off the Solway as if it would never stop and three of us stood with our shoulders hunched against the downpour, wondering what the slurry would not budge. Were we really part of the industry depicted at Earl's Court?

The cows in Scotland have been housed for some weeks now. They roam loose in a big building built over tanks. They lie in cushioned cubicles, but their dung falls through slats in the passages and is stored in the tanks whence it is pumped and spread on the fields.

That Monday morning the pump would not move it and over the weekend the tide of slurry had risen slowly but relentlessly towards the tanks. The Fitzmill line was close. Mud, muck and muddle — precisely the grain baron's view of the cow-keeper's life.

PLAYS AND PLAYERS

JOHN BARBER

IN LIGHT entertainment the man of the year must be Ray Cooney. As a manager, he has taken on the once abandoned Shaftesbury Theatre and made it a humming success. As a producer, he has brought one or two notable shows into his second theatre, the Ambassadors. As an author, he has written the funniest farce of the decade, "Two Into One," while elsewhere in London his "Run For Your Wife" has now run for two years.

A tireless worker, he owes the success of "Two Into One" to three years' work. Playing the leading role himself, he tried it out at Leicester, then at Guildford, testing every laugh, no writing all the time. For the West End he re-directed it and cast a star actor (Donald Sinden) and one untried in farce (Michael Williams), taking a chance on the pair for the unlikely reason that they had worked so well together as King Lear and the Fool at Stratford-upon-Avon.

A modest, sunny personality who learned his trade at the Whitehall with Brian Rix, Mr Cooney explains a farceur's difficulty, in a permissive age, in twisting every laugh, no genuine shock value. How has he managed it? In "Run For Your Wife" his hero is silly enough not to tell his girlfriend he is married. So, to keep her happy, he marries her bigamously, and bigamy is a criminal offence.

In "Two Into One," his hero are doing it so outrageous," he says. "We spend a lot of time here trying to make each of them wholly credible. Michael Williams would be acceptable in a straight play as a serious civil servant. Linda Hayden could be Sinden's secretary. Donald Sinden has the dignity and weight for a Minister. I spend a lot of my time discouraging actors from putting on funny accents, moustaches and beards. They ring me up with bright ideas which I gently quash. Classical actors are accustomed

Ray's a laugh

to hiding behind false noses, wigs, glasses, stutters, blank verse. My plays totally expose you because the language is so ordinary — no word over three syllables — I left school at 14! We play everything absolutely straight for real. The characters have got to do nothing other than serve the plot."

I criticised Mr Cooney sharply for the low quality of some of the plays he put on at the Ambassadors this year, especially as in the past he has promoted serious, non-farce plays like James Saunders' "Bodley" and Tom Kempson's "Dust For One." He agrees. He admits he took on too much in leasing the Ambassadors with the object of developing new writers by putting on a new play there every six weeks.

So he has decided to give up his lease, though he still feels dedicated to unearthing new popular talent (which he does as the theatre's direct need) through its Theatre of Comedy company. But he will put on the plays as he finds them, in any small theatre available. He is as aware as anyone of the excellent writers lately discovered by Hampstead, the Bush and Stratford, E. With two bits in his hands, he now looks to be able to find time to ease promising work towards bigger West End audiences.

A TIME TO SEE THE LIGHT AS FASHION AT LAST TEAMS THE CASUAL WITH THE SPORTY



Pictures by
ANTHONY MARSHALL

PICTURED:

From left to right: Pastel pink and grey jacket with black webbing belt by Cosmic £67-95, grey racing pants by Skin £79-95, grey racer gloves by Event £33-95, pink sunglasses £19-95, pink pouch bag £5-50, pink gaiters £4-95, all from Du Sport, King's Road, London SW3; grey, pink and white mouse earmuffs £4-95 from Fenwick, London W1.

Tiger-printed, padded cotton gilet in subtle grey, turquoise, yellow and white £139-95 (not shown), matching tiger-print trousers £119-95) both by Jet Set; grey ribbed cotton knit top with high drawstring neck by Luhta £34-95; all from Lillywhites; pastel knit Arab-style head-dress by Steffner £15-95, from Du Sport.

Puffy sunray jacket in black, white and royal blue with red rising sun motif on back £39-99, red stirrup pants £25, red, white and blue cowl necks twisted together £7-99 each, padded red hat £3-25, all from C. & A. branches; red and navy mitts by Killy £24-90, from Alpine Sports, Kensington High Street, London W8.



YOUR biggest problem on the ski slopes this year could be making sure that other people can see you coming.

For the high-fashion colour of the season is snow-camouflage white, something which old mountain hands would regard as very imprudent wear. Luckily it is almost always enlivened with other vivid shades and, as a base colour, gives plenty of scope for interesting accessorising.

Apart from a general feeling of lightness and brightness — pastel mixes are also important, especially if printed — the other main skiwear story is versatile layers.

Buying a whole new outfit for the slopes is no small investment and, sensibly, manufacturers are now concentrating on multi-purpose items that can be teamed with non-ski clothes for apres-ski or for casual occasions at home.

Because of this new co-ordinates mood, the highly-technical one-piece is taking a back seat fashion-wise, though serious skiing buffs may still prefer it.

It has been rather ousted by the new ski trousers that, made to fit without the high bib-front of the old ski salopettes, can also double as off-slope wear.

They appear in many different guises, from the traditional stretch racing pants with braces (not flattering, except for the willowy) through nostalgic stirrup-footed styles to a generously-cut fat-guise shape, usually belted and with lots of pockets. New-looking shape in this style teams with a pull-on, sweatshirt-based top.

French designer Henri Duvillard takes the idea further by giving his sweatshirt proofed and padded nylon sleeves for good-weather wear, plus an equally-padded over-gilet to keep out snow and cold.

Another plus point for British skiers this year is the ever-increasing variety of skiwear shops and the efforts they are making not to duplicate their stock by having certain ranges on an exclusive basis. This has led to a sense almost of competition between buyers as they search out new and interesting ranges — sadly mostly from abroad — and this eventually can only be good for the consumer.

For instance, Du Sport, a new skiwear shop in London's King's Road

IT'S WHITE WITH A DASH FOR DAYS ON THE SLOPES

which, its owners hope, will be the first of a small chain, has introduced the budget-priced, well-designed Cosmic range to Britain.

It also has the wide-shouldered, high-fashion Ski range, the matt cotton and sweatshirting utility styles in bright

budget Finnish ranges like Luhta (particularly stylish this year) and Finn Skila. Alpine Sports has well-known ranges like Ellesse and Killy and the best-selling British-made range Neveca, plus Hechter's wonderful, functional grey and white shapes in proofed, crushed, silky fabric.

chainstores are an excellent option, with C & A still away ahead of the field on style for price. It also has an excellent and imaginative accessory range.

Some shops, notably Alpine Sports, will hire skiwear though the doyens of hiring, Moss Bros, say it now finds most people prefer to buy and its hire business is quite small.

However, it has an extensive range for hire, for both adults and children, based on a price of £14-50 for either jacket or trousers for a 10-day period. It will also do hire packages for school parties. Its retail side includes both high-fashion and technically-advanced names like HCC, SOS, Event and Luhta.

Apart from this, hiring skiwear for children is difficult.

This seems particularly tough on parents sending children on first school parties. They may find themselves spending out on a complete kit for what proves to be a one-trip wonder. Begging and borrowing seem to be the answer, and some schools have a system for this.

Some more adventurous dress agencies who cover sportswear will often take one-trip-worn skiwear. For instance, the Froek Exchange at Kimbolton in Cambridgeshire suggests parents buy an inexpensive outfit from, say, C & A and, if it is suitable and cleaned, they will recycle it within the same season. Agencies like this are also a good source from which to buy an inexpensive outfit.

BY AVRIL GROOM

colours from Anzi Besson, and a very comprehensive accessory range.

Lillywhites headed the battle for exclusivity last year with its much-expanded skiwear department and still has some of the most exciting styles around from top names like Jet Set, Allsport and Peter Steinbronn as well as very good coverage of

Snow and Rock. In turn, has Luhta and other well-known names plus big, bright or pastel survival-gear shapes from the Swedish Big Ski label.

Simpson is for upmarket customers with one of the best selections from the Head range, plus HCC, Ellesse and Killy.

For first-timers and any skier on a budget, the

OFF PISTE, ALL-CHANGE FOR APRES-SKI

APRES-SKI and on-slope wear are almost interchangeable these days: versatile, layered ski-gear can easily be transformed to look good around the resort after you've finished your day's exercise, while this year's padded-cotton, pastel, survival-war-style casual clothes could double on the slopes.

They look best worn with a really bright, bold sweater and some vivid accessories to give them a lift and tone with the Alpine surroundings.

Another relaxing and perennial apres-ski theme is the tracksuit style: great for lounging in your hotel with a post-ski hot chocolate or glühwein.

Best Company's American-

style ski motif sweatshirts, available from Lillywhites, are very chic, and Adidas has a whole new range of pastel styles with geometric motifs plus cross-country ski outfits that can do apres-ski duty.

Any of these would be fine in, for example, the casual atmosphere of the bar at the Hotel de Verbier in Verbier,

Switzerland, where our ski-season pictures were taken.

This is the village's favourite meeting place for a post-slope drink and one of the spots the Ski Club of Great Britain uses as a base for its holiday parties, and where its representative can be contacted by members.

Verbier is well known as one

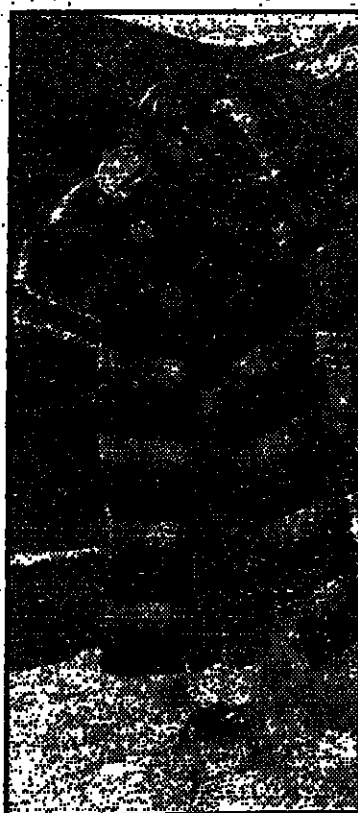
of the most challenging ski areas in the Alps and of the purpose-built resorts it is one of the prettiest, scrambling up a steep south-west-facing slope and with even the newest buildings in chalet style.

It's also the kind of place where you feel comfortable in the sort of apres-ski clothes that can double for winter city wear here: this year, big soft coats, best in bold checks and voluminous in shape, over sleek pants and soft, bright sweaters.

Accessories have a fifties air: sweaters, cowls and berets, with sunglasses — black and mysterious or aviator-style — de rigueur in even the weakest sunshine. Grip-sole boots are essential if you value unbroken limbs: this year's are low and chunky and uncompromisingly white or black.

This look is right for Verbier's smarter apres-ski haunts such as the Milk Bar, famous for patisserie and hot chocolate with whipped cream in self-indulgent bowls. It is also right for some of the more ethnic restaurants like Au Vieux Valais (where two courses of dried mountain ham and wonderful fondue or raclette, plus wine, are excellent value at about £8).

But you will want something greater if you try the delights of the sophisticated restaurant at the Rosalp Hotel. Owner Roland Piroz has turned eating into a sublime gastronomic experience and has thus gained himself three stars from Gault-Millau, the famous French gourmet magazine. Eight sumptuous courses will set you back £40. But what a way to celebrate Christmas!



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From left: Huge, mohair blanket coat in black and white checks £180, brushed cotton trousers in cerise with fine black and white pinstripes £43, both by Wendy Dagworthy from Harvey Nichols, London SW1; Liberty, London W1 and Hobbs branches. Toning multi-coloured mohair sweater by Street Clothes £55, cerise cowl headress £5-95, both from Fenwick,

London W1. White apres-ski boots with grey lacing by Tecnica £33-50, from Alpine Sports, Kensington High Street, London W8. White, padded cotton jacket with clip fastenings £27-99, matching padded pants £22-99, both from Solo branches. Hand-knit reindeer and snowflake motif sweater in off-white and charcoal with bright flecks, by

Molto, £130 from Jones, King's Road, London SW3; Ice, St. Christopher's Place, London W1 and Warehouse of Glasgow, Panda earmuffs £4-95 and Fair Isle gloves £3-45, both from Fenwick.

Chunky wool car-coat in black and chestnut dogstooth check £109, plain black wool-mix trousers £59, black

and chestnut Nordic-style shawl-collared sweater in wool and angora mix £59, all from Alexon branches. Black beret by Kangol £4-95, cream gloves £2-95, both from Fenwick. Black neck-cowl £7-99 from C. & A. branches. Thirties earrings by Pollini from a selection at Scruples, Beauchamp Place, London SW3 and Liberty.

TRACKS FOR TRUCKS

HATING LORRIES AND INHIBITING their movement is a natural response to the frustrations of everyday life. But in a civilisation where over 90 per cent of inland freight and passenger mileage is carried by road, treating the lorry as an enemy only makes matters worse. Rail can be no substitute, since nearly all journeys begin and end by road—which includes shopping and residential streets. So we are left with the problem of accommodating the rubber-tired vehicle as far as we can, and mitigating its worst effects where we cannot.

Mr KEN LIVINGSTONE's proposed night ban on lorries into London is sheer demagoguery. One cannot ban lorries suited to their cargo without killing off London. If one bans night travel, one merely worsens daytime congestion, not least to the detriment of bus, coach and car passengers. Blind rejection of 40-tonners is misguided. What matters is not the weight of individual lorries but their axle-loading and the overall volume of traffic. A 10-ton lorry with unsatisfactory axle-loading wreaks infinitely more havoc than a 40-tonner with its load correctly distributed. A given volume of freight creates more congestion, pollution and vibration in a large number of smaller and medium-sized vehicles than in a smaller number of large, modern, well-designed ones.

Every year the total of freight tonnage increases and, barring severe setbacks in living standards and economic growth, will continue to do so. But road space has not kept pace with this increase. Hence congestion grows worse from year to year. Cursing the hauliers and other road users will not help. They have no alternative. The only answer is the provision of additional road space, preferably segregated from residential and shopping areas. In London, where there is a mile of often under-used rail track for every square mile of land, a thorough examination of the possibility of converting less used tracks to use as relief roads cannot be indefinitely postponed. With characteristic vision, Sir PETER PARKER once instituted such a study but when he retired from B.R. chairmanship the B.R. bureaucracy's dog-in-the-manger attitude aborted further study. May this not be the time for the Government to pick up the thread?

THE CHANCELLOR'S CHOICE

THE GOVERNMENT IS ALLOWING the impression to gain ground that we will all be surprised by the Chancellor's generosity on Budget day. In his Autumn Statement, Mr LAWSON suggested that he might have room for a £1.2 billion "fiscal adjustment" in the spring. It is now being hinted that the figure might be nearer to £3 billion, thanks to distinctly optimistic Treasury assumptions about North Sea oil revenues. The Government, it seems, has judged that growing anxiety about rising unemployment and continuing success on the inflation front makes it politically imperative to observe the spirit of the medium-term financial strategy rather than its letter.

That is sensible—the strategy provides a framework for policy, not a strait-jacket. What is more open to question is the use to which the Government may put the money. In the past week, several Ministers, including Mrs THATCHER, have argued that the most urgent requirement is to raise tax thresholds. Ludicrously, British workers start paying tax at 39 per cent on wages just above the supplementary benefit level. Many families face even higher effective marginal tax-rates because they lose a pound's worth of benefits for every pound earned. Unfortunately, over-indexation of thresholds is a relatively cost-efficient means of encouraging people to price themselves into work.

As a cause of unemployment, the high non-wage labour costs to an employer of taking on low-paid workers is just as important as the "Why work?" syndrome. If the Government wants people to be priced into jobs, it is within its power to help them by both cutting and re-structuring the employers' national insurance contribution. The flat-rate structure and £34 earning threshold of the present system discriminate against those unskilled workers who have been hardest hit by unemployment. If the Chancellor were to use a substantial proportion of the money he may have available to raise the threshold at which the employers' contributions were paid, he would be removing a major distortion in the British labour market. His second priority should be to allocate additional funds to an expanded and modified Community Programme, which remains by far the cheapest way of bringing work and hope to the long-term unemployed.

WHOSE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION?

ADAM SMITH'S FAMILIAR warning about conspiracies against the public and contrivances to raise prices was directed at the tradesmen. Nowadays it may often be extended with at least equal relevance to the professions. For several years, there has been fierce debate about the rights and wrongs of "generic prescribing": discouraging the practice of doctors to give prescriptions to their patients for patented brand-name drugs where much cheaper unpatented substitutes are available. The pharmaceutical industry has argued, with some legitimacy, that economies to the Health Service from reliance on "generic" substitutes would be far outweighed by the destruction of their patents and the erosion of the domestic profit base of one of our rare industries with a healthy and growing balance of international trade to its credit.

So the Department of Health has produced an ingenious compromise: a restricted list of sample drugs of the tranquilliser and cough-mixture type, most of them regularly purchased without benefit of prescription of any kind, where availability through the Health Service would be limited to certain cheaper brand-names, to save some £100 million on the drugs bill. It has also emphasised that this list is open to negotiation.

The hostile response of the pharmaceutical industry is entirely understandable. The manner in which the British Medical Association has made common cause with it—refusing even to discuss the Department's proposals—is much more suspect. Over the lifetime of the present Government, the cost of the GP service has almost doubled in constant price terms. If there has been no wasteful prescribing by the family doctors, the public is entitled to take seriously allegations that too many doctors are prepared to have their prescribing preferences influenced by inducements from the manufacturers. The B.M.A. fears that the Department's list constitutes "the thin end of the wedge." The stridency of its response arouses suspicion.



COMMENTARY

T. E. Uley

IN THE course of her brisk and competent end-of-term address to the Tory 1922 Committee on Thursday, Mrs Thatcher did, I understand, make one fleeting reference to the row over student loans. She said (according to my informant) words to this effect: "I heard about the trouble at 10 p.m. and by 3.30 p.m. the next day I had got it sorted out."

Now, it would be thoroughly churlish to deny to any Prime Minister the privilege of making a mildly conceited remark designed to show the ease with which he or she can cope with "little local difficulties." Moreover, it is as important for a general to know how to retreat as it is for him to know how to advance, and a successful retreat from a position which he never thought it prudent to occupy is particularly praiseworthy.

The trouble simply is that Mrs Thatcher has not set out to be admired as a skilful tactician who will always know exactly when to back down with minimum losses; on the contrary, she has advertised herself as a fearless crusader committed forever to an onward march. It is for this quality that she is loved, indeed, to put it crudely, it is for this quality alone that she is kept.

Not that she has an immense amount to fear from Tory rebellions. The one about the metropolitan authorities and the rate-capping is about the most fraudulent exercise in my political memory. The grave constitutional nonsense regularly disgorged by her critics on this subject is nothing short of intellectually contemptible.

LOCAL government, in the form of parish councils, has a place in the affections of the British people and particularly of old-fashioned Tories; but the notion that it is any part of the inherited constitutional wisdom of the English to maintain huge structures of local administration, appointed by a pathetic minority of the electorate and allowed to spend other peoples' money ad lib, is little short of about the most fraudulent exercise in my political memory. The grave constitutional nonsense regularly disgorged by her critics on this subject is nothing short of intellectually contemptible.

It is a huge fallacy to suppose that relatively small politics are in their nature less tyrannical than large ones; compare Calvin's Geneva with the U.S.A.

No, what Mrs Thatcher has to fear is the repetition of middle-class revolts on the model of the student-grant revolt. I see two on the horizon arising from the social services reviews in which Mr Fowler's Department is now engaged: will the Government, as it looks into the 21st century, feel that it can afford to maintain earnings-related State pensions for the retired? And will it also feel that it can carry on with unelected and untaxed child benefits?

When talking to that 1922 Committee, Mrs Thatcher complained that the Government was now faced by more pressure from special-interest groups than ever before. I doubt the accuracy of that comment, and I also doubt the practicality (indeed the legitimacy) of eliminating pressure groups altogether from politics.

What has to be done is to persuade some of such groups of the undoubted truth that their own long-term interests are better served by fending for themselves within the framework of equitable tax laws than by trying to bleed the Treasury white. The task is not impossible given oratory of a high order. Years ago, I heard Enoch Powell preaching the virtues of unfettered competition and the evils of subsidy and tariffs to a meeting of the National Farmers' Union in Shropshire—surely, the most protectionist audience you can imagine. At the end, he had them all on their feet.

I CANNOT sympathise with the Archbishop of York's distress at the recent Gallup Poll designed to discover what, if anything, the clergy and the laity now believe. Of course it is impossible for any pollster to frame questions which will cover every nuance of theological speculation about the nature of Christ's resurrection; but most of the questions asked (about the literal truth of the Virgin birth and that of the lesser miracles, for example) seemed to me to be quite clear.

Theology is no doubt a very sophisticated discipline but the question which troubles us simple believers is this: if the view that Christ was born of a virgin and did a great many miraculous things on earth is to be dismissed as intrinsically incredible, how can we be expected to believe that God created the whole universe out of nothing? It is a point on which we need guidance. Nor can we feel it impertinent politely to ask our pastors exactly what they do believe about these things.

IF, as seems to be the case, it is really true that some Labour M.P.s conspicuously refrained from joining in the welcome which the Commons gave to John Wakeham, widowed and wounded in the Brighton bomb attack on his return last Thursday, one must wonder (rather more than I am normally disposed to) what is happening to the fundamental decency of the British and to their world famous Parliament?

Will Reagan swap the American eagle for a cheaper dove?

THE wooden stands are being erected in Lafayette Park across the avenue from the White House for next month's Inauguration Day parade—the nation's 50th and Mr Reagan's second—and Christmas lights can be seen twinkling through the White House windows. In Washington, a city of short memories, the Presidential elections are fading into the past along with dimly remembered names like Mondale, Ferraro and Hart.

One phrase from those distant days—all of two or three months ago—was that repeated by a confident Mr Reagan at the end of each campaign speech when he proclaimed to his supporters: "You ain't seen nothin' yet!"

What the President is likely to see in this next Administration, though, is not what one might have expected from his triumphant victory, taking 49 of the 50 States of the Union. For already, even before the Jan. 21 Inauguration Day, trials and tribulations for Mr Reagan's last term are building up which would dismay any President with a less sunny and happy-go-lucky disposition.

These include deep divisions within his own Administration—headed by the growing rivalry between the Secretaries of State and Defence, which he alone must solve; a more independent and less malleable leadership in Congress than that during the first-term Administration, and more concerned for its own skin; a soaring budget deficit, even harder to get a handle on because Mr Reagan campaigned for re-election on the issue of no tax increases; and the problems of being a "lame duck" President—a curious fact of life in American politics where all politicians are permanently fighting the next election.

NOW the euphoria of the '84 elections is over, Mr Reagan and his advisers, practically all of whom are staying on, are having to come to terms with the fact that the deficit is more complicated than they thought, and that America is not going to "grow out of it."

It is becoming increasingly clear that the Administration cannot get to grips with a \$200 billion a year deficit without raising taxes and slowing the military build-up, and the person likely to tell Mr Reagan most forcefully that now is the time to bite the bullet, is Mrs Thatcher during her talks at Camp David this weekend.

America's budget deficit, and its threat to Britain's, and Western Europe's, economic recovery, will doubtless be on top of the list of Mrs Thatcher's concerns—echoing the fears of Mr Reagan's budget director, Mr David Stockman, who is pressing for sweeping cuts in both domestic and military expenditure.

The Defence Secretary, Caspar

Weinberger, has been fighting a last-ditch battle against cuts in his \$288 billion budget despite warnings from the new Republican leader in the Senate, Mr Robert Dole, that, without Pentagon sacrifices, budget cuts in domestic spending will never pass through Congress. Mr Weinberger contends that with America entering into nuclear arms negotiations with Moscow this is the worst moment to signal a cutback in the American military build-up.

This is just one of the disputes within the Administration requiring Mr Reagan's intervention, disputes that also cover almost all foreign policy issues and normally feature the two adversaries, Mr Weinberger and the Secretary of State, Mr George Shultz.

The dispute between the two men goes back to Beirut, where Mr Weinberger was opposed to

point the veteran arms negotiator, Mr Paul Nitze, an adviser to the Secretary of State in the negotiations. Mr Nitze is considered to be the most flexible of the Administration's arms-negotiating team.

If the Pentagon has its way, however, Mr Shultz would go to Geneva with the same set of American positions that existed when the Russians walked out of the arms talks a year ago. The State Department believes this would simply lead to a return to deadlock.

The Pentagon also has no interest in discussing Moscow's concern over President Reagan's weapons in space nuclear defence system, or considering a freeze on the testing of America's anti-satellite weapons. The State Department fears that this hard-line approach would kill any hope of arms negotiations and would like to at least talk to the Russians about space weapons and nuclear weapons.

Despite his personal victory at the polls, Mr Reagan's position in the House of Representatives is weaker than it was when he first came to office, while in the Senate the Republicans see a real threat of the Democrats seizing control in 1986. Mr Reagan did little in the election campaign to help his Republican Congress members get re-elected, and it is clear that Republicans in the Senate, fearful for their own survival, will follow his lead only if it serves their own interests to do so.

MR REAGAN this time round also can expect less support from Republicans for his growing military budget and his proposed cuts in domestic spending. Even the Senate's old war horse, Barry Goldwater, who is expected to over the influential Armed Services Committee next year, says that the nation should scrap Mr Reagan's much-prized and costly MX missile system.

Last month's Senate leadership elections, which brought in moderate Conservative Republicans, were a devastating blow to the far Right and produced in Mr Dole a powerful and independent-minded Senate leader who has presidential ambitions of his own.

The new Right has fared little better inside the Administration. The so-called Reaganite "true believers" were largely ousted by the "pragmatists" in the first Administration and Mr Reagan's decision to stick to the old team in his second term has left the pragmatists pretty much in place.

The last hope for the "true believers" is that Mr Reagan may still find a job next year for their champion, the departing Ambassador to the United Nations, Mrs Jeane Kirkpatrick. So far, Mr Reagan says, he has been able to find nothing "worthy of her," being unwilling to make room by shifting Mr Shultz or his National Security Adviser, Mr Robert McFarlane, but a senior post for Mrs Kirkpatrick would certainly be a boost for the Right wing.

LONDON DAY BY DAY

On the Royal road to recovery

JOHN WAKEHAM's return to political life following the Brighton bombing will take another step forward this week when he attends a meeting of the Privy Council at Buckingham Palace.

It will be the first opportunity for the Queen to meet the Chief Whip since he was badly injured in the Grand Hotel.

Although the meeting has official business to conclude, it will have an informal pre-Christmas air with the Queen chatting to her privy councillors over drinks after the formalities have been completed.

There will be a special poignancy to the meeting, before the bombing, Wakeham, whose wife Roberta died in the explosion, had invited the Queen to see how the Whips' Office works. The terrible events of Brighton forced her to postpone that visit.

World view

HAPPILY, more reports of Norman Tebbit's road to recovery and impending return to active politics continue to reach me from visitors to his bedside at Stoke Mandeville Hospital.

The Institute of Directors is already sending out invitations to its annual convention at the Albert Hall on Feb 26 listing Tebbit as the principal speaker on the theme "Business and the Wider World."

According to the Department of Trade and Industry the engagement was made long before the Brighton bomb. But they, like the I.O.D., expect Tebbit to be back in cracking form by then.

Lord Hunt, the former Secretary to the Cabinet, has become chairman of the board of the T.A.B.E.R., the 144-year-old Roman Catholic weekly. Hunt can be sure the paper will stay close to the Catholic hierarchy—he is Cardinal Hume's brother-in-law.

Bomb expert

COMMANDER William Huckleby, the former head of Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist branch, is to spend a year at the National Defence College, a post-nuclear war think-tank.

Huckleby, known in the force as "Posh Bill" because of his accent and manners, recently joined the Fraud Squad after three years of dealing with bomb attacks from IRA and Middle Eastern terrorists.

Colleagues are already joking that he has simply moved from dealing with one lot of bombs to another.

Getting the bug

WHILE Mikhail Gorbachev himself will stay in the ideological safety of the Soviet Embassy in Kensington during his time in Britain, members

of his 30-strong entourage face the temptations of life at the other end of Millionaires' Row in the Royal Garden Hotel.

A colleague went to discover what the assorted KGB men could take home as souvenirs from the capitalist goods on display in the hotel lobby.

Apart from the usual luxuries he spotted a piece of Western electronic wizardry which claims to enable its owner to "listen to confidential meetings, monitor and tail vehicles and check out unoccupied properties." A perfect Kremlin Christmas present?

Playing the Palace

M.P.s who have problems finding a Christmas present for the constituent who has everything will be pleased to note that the House of Commons souvenir shop has just introduced a new game called "Westminster".

The family board game for the over-11s was devised by, among others, Charles Irving, the Tory backbencher and chairman of the Commons catering committee, during late night languors in the committee corridor. The game is to form a Government and pilot a bill through Parliament. I trust it is not as soporific as the business which inspired it.

Dad's Army spirit

MY MENTION of an abortive wartime experiment to mount concrete pillboxes on lorries in order to develop a novel armoured vehicle, has prompted one reader to recall his father's efforts to spearhead the local Home Guard's defence of the village of Manuden in Essex.

Robert Furse, the farmer commanding the unit, made his own armoured car by cutting the roof off an old American saloon and surrounding it with sheet iron plating. When tests firing rifle bullets into the car proved that the armour was inadequate, it

was replaced with a four-inch layer of cement held on by wooden boards.

The cumbersome vehicle was driven round the lanes of Essex with some success but unfortunately another of Furse's inventions, a giant catapult mounted above the windscreen and designed to hurl handgrenades, had to be abandoned due to a technical error. The geometry was wrong and the contraption only succeeded in sending the projectiles ricocheting around the inside of the car.

The only foreign-language book ever to appear on the New York Times best seller list is "Winnie the Pooh," the Latin version of the A.A. Milne classic, which continues to sell well in the United States 24 years after it was first published there. Last week it went back for another reprint after one big bookseller demanded 2,500 copies to meet Christmas demand.

Slanted selection

TONY BALDREY, the Tory M.P. for Banbury, has had a revealing insight into the BBC's idea of "balanced" news programmes. As chairman of the Ethiopian Society he was contacted on Friday by Radio 4's "P.M." and asked for his views on the Treasury's refusal to follow the Irish Government in refunding VAT on sales of a pop record in aid of the famine relief fund.

Baldrey told the producer that he agreed with the Treasury that it would be inadvisable to make an exception for the record. It would open the door to endless future wrangles over equally worthy charitable appeals. He was not invited to speak on the programme.

It went out with two other M.P.s both lambasting the Treasury for its meanness. No counter view was put.

Botham's benefit

IAN BOTHAM, who has stayed away from the Indian test series, preferring instead to play soccer for fourth division Scunthorpe United, has found a profitable way of getting into Scunthorpe's first eleven after several weeks out of the team.

He has persuaded Manchester United, whose manager Roy Atherton is a friend, to play a benefit match with the lowly Scunthorpe side today—which could be worth up to £15,000 for the cricketer, and virtually guarantees him a place.

Many a slip...

WITH the controversy about Christmas road safety coming to the fore, the GLAMORGAN GAZETTE captured the spirit of the times the other week with its report of a Bridgend barmaid who "pleaded guilty to charges of drinking without due care and attention."

PETERBOROUGH

LETTERS

The anatomy of the CND

SIR—Anyone comparing the detailed points made by Mr Edward Leigh M.P. (Dec. 6) showing recently resigned Commissioner of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament and quoting CND's Disarmament and Quoting CND's Disarmament inferiority of the Warsaw Pact cannot fail to be disappointed by the response of Miss Margaret Morton (Dec. 12).

Declining to answer these points, she just generally condemns "the sport of Communist-baiting" and claims that a movement dominated by the hard Left would not attract as many members as does CND.

In reality, this is precisely what happens. Of the six national officers elected at the recent CND conference, every one was a Labour or "Socialist" activist.

They included two former Left-wing Labour parliamentary candidates (one involved with the Trotskyist Socialist Organiser Alliance faction), one former time trade union official and one former participant in activities organised by the Soviet-run World Peace Council.

Of the 20 CND council members elected, at least eight were Labour activists; two were in the Communist party (including a leading member of the British-Soviet Friendship Society); at least four more were Socialists; or otherwise declared Liberal, one Ecologist, and one Christian (who has written for the Communist Morning Star newspaper).

Thus at least 20 out of the 26 were clearly on the Left—including the two conference organisers, both of whom have in recent times belonged to the British Communist party.

This hardly conforms to the broad-based image of the CND Miss Morton wants us to entertain. Nor does the reality behind CND's demonstration of Dec. 8 against nuclear missiles, to which she refers.

Whereas the June 1984 CND demonstration against President Reagan produced a turnout of over 50,000 protesters, that mounted against Soviet nuclear weapons only six months later produced a mere 300 of CND's thousands of purportedly even-handed members.

(D) JULIAN LEWIS
Research Director,
Coalition for Peace Through
Security,
London, S.W.1.

Eton's foundation

SIR—May I make a further comment on your news item on Eton (Nov. 20). Some idea of the "Roman" Catholic nature of Henry VI's foundation can be gathered from the official college brochure, "The King Henry VI founded the King's College of Our Lady of Eton beside Windsor."

It goes on to say that "he persuaded the Pope to grant a privilege unequalled anywhere in England: Eton was to have the right to grant indulgences to penitents on the Feast of the Assumption." Thus King Henry accepted the Pope's authority in spiritual matters. The college chapel "was intended to become one of the great places of pilgrimage in Europe. For about a decade pilgrims, attracted by the indulgences and the relics, flocked to Eton at the Feast of the Assumption in August."

Henry provided Eton with "an establishment of ten priest fellows, ten chaplains," etc. and there were "masses offered for the souls of the Founder's parents and, after the Founder's death, for the Founder himself." The practice of saying mass for the dead was, and still is, very "Roman" Catholic.

Eton was dedicated to the Virgin Mary and the brochure mentions that on the north wall of the chapel "the paintings depict miracles of the Virgin Mary."

Now veneration (not adoration) of the Virgin Mary was, and is, a very typical Roman Catholic practice. But then "they (the paintings) were white-washed over in 1560 as a result of an order from the new Protestant church authorities."

This last phrase is an honest acknowledgement that the religion of Eton (and of England?) in 1560 was no longer the religion of Henry VI.

(Rev.) JOHN FORDHAM
The Oratory,
London, S.W.7.

VAT on books

SIR—In opposing VAT on the price of books readers should bear in mind that already Inland Revenue disallow expenditure on Lexicons, Concordances, Commentaries and similar necessary books as a claim for expenses of the clergy. It is as if the legal profession could only claim for the cost of a copy of Magna Carta but not for a copy of reports. Clergy are allowed the cost of only Prayer Books and Bibles.

I have raised the issue with at least two Members of Parliament, one of whom is also a Member of the General Synod but must agree with my local Member that clergy are allowed to claim the cost of "washing and replacement of robes" (overall).

Even the Churches' Main Committee cannot as yet remove this fiscal impediment to an educated and studious clergy.

(Rev.) V. L. TUCKER HARVEY
Hasketon, Suffolk.

Freedom of choice

SIR—You report (Dec. 7) a reference to Christian Scientists by the Duke of Norfolk to which he appears to imply that they are prohibited by their Church from having recourse to surgery.

Christian Scientists are free to make their own decisions on matters of health and mode of treatment. When someone joins the Church he is voluntarily committing himself to a faith which includes reliance on God for healing, through prayer, but the Church does not and would not attempt to coerce its members in such matters: the choice always remains with the individual.

RICHARD ROBINSON
Dist. Man., Christian Science Ctries, on
Publication,
London, W.8.

Still waiting

SIR—Mr Nicholas Garland's clever cartoon on the protracted Standedt air-pollution inquiry reminds me that it is believed there were three Wright Brothers—Wilbur, Orville, and one, name will be confirmed when he finally touches down.

A. J. CLOUGH
Wallasey, Merseyside

Pledge on famine aid as Minister sees 'Belsen' babies

By R. BARRY O'BRIEN in Addis Ababa

SKELETAL babies and children were shown to Mr John Stanley, Armed Forces Minister, when he visited a hospital in an Ethiopian famine area over the weekend. "This is worse than anything in Belsen or Buchenwald," said Squadron leader Dr Keith Croft, medical officer of the RAF detachment, who accompanied him.

After his three-day tour Mr Stanley said: "Undoubtedly it is going to be necessary to maintain a high level of famine relief aid to Ethiopia both on the food side and the medical side right through 1985."

"The British Government is going to be making a significant contribution to that."

It was in the north Ethiopian town of Makale that Mr Stanley saw the "Belsen" babies. He flew there in a RAF Hercules C-130 from the Red Sea port of Assab with a load of Canadian wheat.

Screaming with pain

In Makale he visited an International Red Cross children's feeding centre, a camp containing more than 16,000 famine victims, and the hospital where an Ethiopian paediatrician Dr Berhane Endeshaw showed him a series of children, third or a quarter of their correct weight, too malnourished and weak to stand up.

All would need a year's intensive feeding as inpatients.



in the hospital to have a chance of recovery, the doctor said. Squadron Leader Croft examined some of the children as the Ethiopian doctor held them up. They were screaming and crying with pain.

"I have never seen anything like this," Squadron Leader Croft said. "They have obviously not eaten for a very long time."

10,000 live in open

At the nearby Red Cross feeding centre Mr Stanley saw scores of happier, smiling children on their way to recovery. One child was yelling as nurses painted his body with a treatment for lice and scabies.

At the camp, the Minister was told 10,000 people were living in the open. Mr Fekadu chief administrator of Tigray region, said plastic sheeting for cover was of no help because there were no poles available to support it. "The countryside is completely bare," he said.

Ethiopian relief workers said the death toll at the camp had risen from around five to 16 a day because of pneumonia following the heavy rains last week. Before flying back to Britain

Mr Stanley ruled out an expansion of the RAF's role in the famine relief to match an increasing flow of food aid.

He said in Addis Ababa that the two RAF Hercules ferrying food and relief supplies to famine victims were a substantial contribution from Britain's fleet of 60 Hercules which had the Falklands airbridge and other tasks around the world.

No view had yet been reached about whether the three months period for which the aircraft were being provided by Britain should be extended beyond February. The Government would be considering the balance between airfreight and transport by road, which carried the bulk of food supplies and was the most cost-effective way to distribute grain around the country. It would also be considering the overall availability of aircraft.

Mr Stanley added: "Following the British Government's decision to bring in the RAF here a lot of other governments have followed suit and there are a number of governments which are still considering whether to send aircraft here."

"So we haven't reached anything like the maximum potential amount of air resources."

An official delegation from Canada, a major donor of food aid to Ethiopia, arrived yesterday in support of long-term development assistance for the Marxist military regime. "You can't feed people this year and have them starve next year," Mr David MacDonald, Canadian Government emergency co-ordinator for relief in Africa and leader of the delegation, said in Addis Ababa.

Western countries cut off bilateral development aid to Ethiopia after it joined the Soviet camp in 1977.

'Sold in markets'

Mr MacDonald said investigations were being made about reports of relief food being sold in the markets. He had personally seen empty Canadian wheatbags at Addis Ababa market which were obviously being resold as bags for other things.

And Mr Stanley, during a visit to a warehouse in the port of Assab, saw a mound of grain from a 27,000-ton cargo bought by the Ethiopian Government to feed the one million population of Addis Ababa being placed in bags originally used for famine relief grain from the E.C.

Ethiopian officials explained that the E.C. bags were being used because the grain had come in bulk and no other bags were available. "We cannot make bags in Ethiopia because we do not have the material," an official said.



Children huddled in blankets as they wait for food supplies at a relief camp in Ethiopia.

'Slavery' of workers who go unpaid

By KEN POTTINGER in Lisbon

TRADE UNIONS call it a scandal worse than slavery. The Government admits it is embarrassing.

More than 150,000 Portuguese workers are facing Christmas with salaries in arrears, or simply unpaid, some for as long as a year. Yet they stay in the severe economic crisis which has eroded buying power, slashed sales and brought cash-flow problems to many companies.

Estimates of amounts owing and the number of workers affected vary, but the plight appears to touch about 500 companies in the private and public sectors whose total debts to workers are around £50 million. Over the weekend tens of thousands of members of the pro-Communist General Confederation of Portuguese Workers marched through Lisbon to draw attention to their difficulties, which they say are unparalleled in recent European labour history.

A Confederation spokesman told The Daily Telegraph that the non-payment of wages was worse than slavery. "At least slave owners were obliged to feed their workers," he said. "Many of our members are going hungry."

Last week the Socialist-led coalition Government of Prime Minister Soares moved that unpaid workers in companies whose activities were completely paralysed could draw unemployment benefits. But union critics say this affects a tiny proportion of the total.

Senior Joao Correia, a union lawyer, told me: "There is no lack of laws to enforce the payment of wages to workers. The problem lies in getting speedy court action."

"It normally takes between two and three years for cases to be heard and what worker without money for food, rent or clothing can afford to wait that long?"

The Trade Union Confederation has intervened in a number of cases and has even laid criminal charges against the Government's labour inspectorate, which is supposed to see that labour contracts and conditions are adhered to in other words, that workers are paid.

Austerity measures

The Confederation has also invoked the International Labour Organisation in Geneva, yet the problem remains unsolved. The situation is closely linked to rigid dismissal laws which prevent employers firing workers individually.

The situation is not expected to improve in the short term, while the economy remains depressed and affected by the 15-month-old austerity programme imposed by the International Monetary Fund to reduce a massive deficit in external borrowings. One group of citizens, however, has no complaints. The nation's 250 Parliamentary Deputies are considering proposals to give themselves a 52 per cent raise, bringing monthly wages to £450, or six times the national minimum.

Previous similar proposals have always drawn unanimous support from the House and few expect things to be different this time.

SNOW HAMPER ASBESTOS HUNT

Snow falling in parts of South Yorkshire has hampered efforts by squads of workmen trying to locate and remove asbestos traces around Rotherham and Doncaster. The asbestos was carried by the wind from a warehouse fire in Sheffield, eight miles away, on Friday.

Thousands of children were told to stay away from schools until the asbestos was all found and removed. Playgrounds and playing fields in about 30 schools are known to be contaminated.

ITV blows whistle on 'World of Sport'

By ROBIN STRINGER TV and Radio Correspondent

ITV's Saturday sports programme, "World of Sport," will be replaced next autumn after a run of 20 years and the amount of time devoted to sports coverage on Saturday afternoons will be halved.

The present four or five hours of sport will be reduced to two, except on special occasions, and the emphasis will be on live sport.

Among the attractions will be live coverage of domestic athletics, the contract which ITV wrested from the BBC last July at a cost of £10,500,000 for the next five years beginning in April.

The contract is one of several factors to have influenced John Bromley, chairman of ITV sport, and other ITV chiefs in their decision to reshape Saturday afternoon coverage.

Declining audiences for "World of Sport" from an average 10 years ago of 4,500,000 to about 3,100,000 have persuaded them that the public have lost their enthusiasm for recorded sport.

The decision also coincides with the switching of racing, the stand-by of "World of Sport," to Channel 4. The move is now being worked out.

Another important consideration was the increasing amount of sport being shown on Sunday afternoons. As one senior ITV executive explained: "You can't have 'World of Sport' on Saturday and Sunday."

Mr Bromley said last night: "No final decision has been taken on dropping the 'World of Sport' title or on the final format for the new-style programme." It is expected that presenters, such as Dickie Davies, who was voted Sports Presenter of the Year by the television and radio industry last year, will continue with ITV sport if they so wish.

Breakfast TV

The BBC, which is seeking an increase in the colour television licence fee, from £46 to £55, last night denied a suggestion that it might be considering ending "Breakfast Time" as part of a cost-cutting exercise.

"Breakfast Time" has been a success from Day One," said a BBC spokesman. "It remains a very effective service to our viewers and it is an integral part of our news and information service as the coverage of the Brighton bombing recently demonstrated."

Far from ending the programme, the BBC wanted to build on it to provide "a sensible all-day service on BBC1 in due course."

Another denial came yesterday from the Prime Minister's office of a report suggesting that Mrs Thatcher favoured the granting of a licence fee of £55, fixed only for a year, while the BBC decided whether it would agree to take advertising or to cut its service.

'GRANDAD' ACTOR DIES AT 69

Lennard Pearce, who played Grandad in the BBC television comedy "Only Fools and Horses," died aged 69 on Saturday, 10 days after starting filming for a new series of the programme. The new series has now been postponed.

"Only Fools and Horses" earned the BBC the situation comedy award in the TV and Radio Industries Club presentation in London last April. Mr Pearce, who had suffered from high blood pressure, said the programme's success had given him "a new lease of life."

WOMAN HURT IN SOCCER FRACAS

Two Bristol City supporters were detained after trouble following the Third Division game in Hounslow on Saturday. A woman walking home after watching the game with her husband, was attacked and received a black eye and other injuries, and was detained overnight in hospital.

During the game missiles which were hurled on to the pitch included a billiard ball and a splintered length of wood which narrowly missed a linesman.

STUN GUN WORRIES POLICE

By TONY ALLEN-MILLS in New York

DALLAS police are using "stun guns" the size of an electric razor as a non-lethal method of subduing suspects who struggle when being arrested.

But the hand-held high-technology weapons, which disrupt the nervous system by causing temporary weakness, were deemed in New York to be likely to prove "more trouble than they were worth" and were rejected.

A Police Department spokesman said yesterday that senior New York officers were worried about the effects electrical shocks might have on suspects with bad hearts or of generally nervous dispositions.

The gun works by shooting out an electrical discharge which interrupts messages from the brain to the muscles, causing the muscles to relax.

Its manufacturer, Nova Technologies Inc., of Austin, Texas, claims that a three-second discharge from the gun applied to a suspect's abdomen, would cause knees to buckle and leave the victim disorientated for 10 to 15 seconds—enough time to clip on the handcuffs.

Lawsuit fear

But police doctors in New York issued a warning that the gun might prove dangerous to people in poor health, especially anyone with a heart problem.

If a suspect died from the electrical shock, the Police Department might be faced with a multi-million dollar lawsuit, irrespective of whether the suspect turned out to be guilty or innocent.

"I think they were worried most that people might get killed instead of getting arrested," the New York spokesman said.

Nova Technologies claims that the gun is no danger, even to people with heart problems. Dallas police have agreed to continue experimenting with the gun. Police Captain Rick Stone described the effect as "not a painful experience, but not a pleasant one."

HOODED RAPIST ATTACKS GIRLS AT KNIFEPOINT

Police are hunting a hooded rapist who held up two 15-year-old girls at knife-point early yesterday and forced them into a field where one was raped and the other sexually assaulted.

They were walking home from a disco along the A41 from Berkhamstead to Hemel Hempstead, Herts, when they were attacked by the man described as wearing 5ft 6in and 5ft 8in tall, stockily built with a "local" accent.

Det. Chief Supt. Tony Hill, in Charge of the investigation, said the description matched that of a man being sought for the rape of a 15-year-old girl a few miles away on Nov. 25.

Fowler attacks drug firms over 'fear' campaign

By DAVID FLETCHER Health Services Correspondent

A COUNTER-ATTACK has been launched by Mr Fowler, Social Services Secretary, to criticisms of the Government's plan to limit the number of drugs doctors may prescribe on the N.H.S.

In a letter to all M.P.s, he attacks the pharmaceutical industry's advertising campaign against the plan as "seriously misleading," and says it raises "unnecessary fears."

Roche Products is singled out for posing "highly tendentious questions" about the proposals in a letter it sent to M.P.s.

Mr Fowler says that only 10 per cent of drugs are affected by his proposals. They include "home remedies" — such as cough medicine, tonics, laxatives, minor pain killers, indigestion remedies and low dose vitamins — and tranquillisers or sedatives.

Although many brand-name products in these groups would no longer be available on the N.H.S., there would still be a range of drugs which doctors could prescribe. He dismisses as nonsense claims that his proposals will result in a two-tier health system with wealthy patients being able to buy privately the drugs of their choice.

Simply expensive

"There is no question of a second-class service," the Government has decided there is no reason for the N.H.S. to provide every drug which the pharmaceutical industry chooses to put on the market particularly when many of them have no advantages in treatment and are simply more expensive."

Mr Fowler also denies drug company claims that their business will be severely affected by the changes, or that the plan will inhibit investment for research. He says that if research finds new medicines which offer real improvements in treatment, it will be possible to add them.

The annual cost of drugs to the N.H.S. is £1,500 million and Britain is virtually the only country in the world not to impose some kind of limit on the number of drugs which can be prescribed at taxpayers' expense.

Editorial Comment—P10

BIG BOND WINNERS

Winning numbers in the weekly draw of £100,000, £50,000 and £25,000 Fremantle Bond prizes are: £100,000: 5DN 274243 (Hertfordshire); £50,000: 3DK 939078 (Cambridgeshire); £25,000: 24AL 321478 (Berkshire).

Air chief's will

Air Chief Marshal Sir William Laurence Mary Macdonald, of Onslow Gardens, South Kensington, who commanded the RAF in the Far East during the Chinese Eoka rebellion, from 1958 to 1962, left £199,455 net (£243,248 gross).

Latest Wills—P8

Extradition deal with Spain 'by the summer'

By TIM BROWN in Madrid

BOTH British and Spanish diplomats and legal experts were confident at the weekend that agreement is now in sight for a new extradition treaty between the two countries to go into force in the summer.

Two days of "technical talks" at diplomatic and legal level ended in Madrid on Friday during which several major problems were overcome and substantial progress made in an atmosphere described by one member of the British team as "very cordial."

The next round of talks are scheduled to be held in London early in the New Year and both sides are optimistic that agreement is near for the new treaty which will replace the old legislation cancelled by Spain six years ago.

The treaty will mean the end of Spain being used as a safe haven from justice by scores of men wanted in Britain in connection with major crimes.

Once the new agreement has been signed it will have to go through legal and parliamentary procedures in both countries which is expected to take several months.

In a second major move last week to stop Spain being used by foreign criminal elements the Spanish Cabinet approved a new alien draft law giving courts sweeping new powers to expel "undesirables."

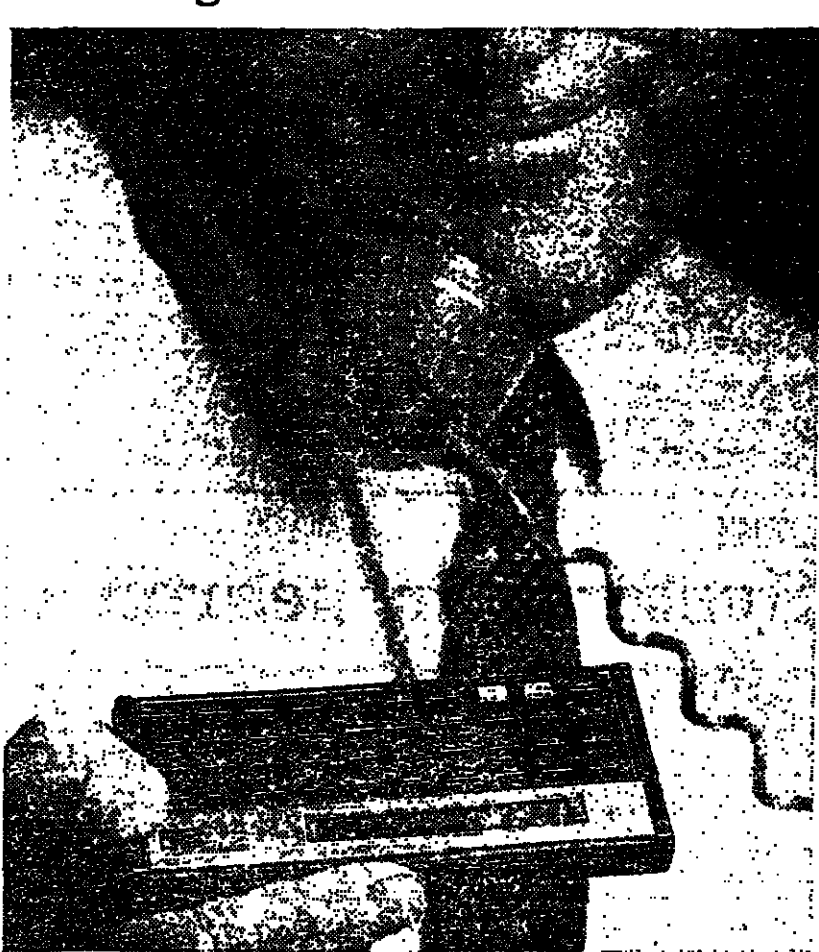
The legislation, which has been approved by the Spanish Parliament, gives judges the right to deport foreigners who are illegally in the country, are engaged in crime or are considered to be undesirable.

BEEFING IT UP

Ireland now supplies 12 per cent of all the beef eaten in the United Kingdom, the Irish Meat Board said yesterday.

Meat Board said yesterday.

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INVESTMENT & BUSINESS

City Editor

Andreas Whittam Smith

Daily Telegraph
City Office112 Queen Victoria Street
London EC4P 4BS
Tel: 01-353 4242Navy man
gets the
hi tech team
ship-shape

ROUNDING UP eleven of America's fiercest competitors in an attempt to set up a joint research project was a bit like asking Republicans and Democrats to agree on a budget. But as President of Microelectronics and Computer Technology Corporation retired Admiral Bobby Ray Inman has achieved the previously unimaginable in just one year.

Mr Inman, a former deputy director of the Central Intelligence Agency has steered America's first joint commercial venture in high technology through its first rocky year. He presides over a \$68 million-a-year budget and a company that has as its members some of America's mightiest corporations — Control Data, Digital Equipment, Honeywell, Lockheed, Boeing and National Semiconductor.

The brain-child of Control Data is chairman William Norris. The corporation was created to help computer and microelectronics companies meet the challenge from the government supported research and development programmes in Japan and Western Europe. By pooling resources — money, technology and scientists — for long-range projects, Mr Norris believed the United States could maintain its edge in the technology race that is rapidly changing industrial economies.

Americans are so preoccupied with the threat that the Japanese will do to the United States

THE
AMERICAN
INTERVIEW

in computers what they did in cars and televisions that the government relaxed formally stringent anti-trust laws and gave M.C.T. the go-ahead to set up a joint commercial research venture.

According to Mr Inman the easy part was getting government approval. The hard part was sitting down with companies not in the habit of sharing closely-guarded technological developments and working out a long-term plan for the corporation.

"The first thing we had to deal with was the problem that while the companies had agreed on how to finance the operations, and they had defined the programmes they wanted, they had not reached any agreement on assembling the talent," notes Mr Inman.

Originally it was expected that the corporations involved in each of the four research areas would recruit scientists from their own in-house departments to work at the corporation. But Mr Inman soon found that while the companies were willing to fork out money they balked at providing their best manpower. In the end, he put together a team of 238 scientists and technicians, most of whom came from outside the companies.

"The idea of working in an arena of long-term funding, guaranteed for very long-term goals was appealing to a lot of scientists," said Mr Inman. "They knew that at the corporation they wouldn't have to argue with a company's controller for continued funding, wouldn't get pulled off of some long-range project to work on this year's company product in trouble. Therefore the pool of talent applying to be part of the corporation from all over the country simply turned out in a good many cases to be better than what was offered by the companies."

The corporation has four main areas of research—semiconductor packaging, software technology, computer-aided design for large-scale integration and advanced computer architecture. The latter, which is in layman's terms means artificial intelligence and super-computer research takes up half of the \$34 million budget.

Lauren Chamblis

Hambro Life for
requote after
BAT £664m bid

By JOHN RUDOFSKY

HAMBRO LIFE Assurance shares are expected to return from suspension this morning following the £664 million bid agreed over the weekend for BAT Industries.

The shares were halted after a strong rise at 4.55p but BAT has struck an agreed deal at 5.50p a share. As an alternative BAT is also offering a 12½ p.c. unsecured loan stock 2003/08 to shareholders.

The news is likely to fire an already lively sector with recent share price rises from British Assurance and Refuge.

Britannia Arrow has long been a speculator's favourite; even M & G out of the Kleinwort Benson stable and Robert Fleming's Save & Prosper must now be possible targets for the strong list of buyers on both sides of the Atlantic who may follow BAT's example.

BAT's chairman Patrick Sheehy said yesterday he went for Hambro Life, Britain's biggest unit-linked life company with £5.5 billion fund under management, to expand the range of financial services the group can offer to individuals.

He is not interested in financial concerns serving the corporate customer. He is interested in banking, money-raising operations and stockbroking in the short term.

Mr Sheehy confirmed he first secured the agreement of Hambro Life's Mark Weinberg. The 55-year-old chairman of the company has been in the business over 13 years then won over Charterhouse J. Rothschild which has 24.9 p.c. and Guardian Royal

Exchange with 10 p.c. before BAT then returned to round off the deal with directors bringing acceptances up to 38.5 p.c.

Hambro Life's fate was sealed when its planned £1 billion merger with Charterhouse J. Rothschild failed last June. Mr Weinberg's long-standing deputy Sydney Lipworth, both of whom join the main BAT board, admitted yesterday Hambro Life had no ambitions that it could not see through itself.

But even since the summer deal with Charterhouse J. Rothschild collapsed there has been a cloud over the group's shares. "This removes the uncertainty for shareholders and BAT will be able to provide us with any new capital we might need," said Mr Lipworth. But he agreed there is no "hit list" of businesses to buy.

Astonishingly this deal means BAT can now boast both the largest and the second-largest takeover in British corporate history. The £268 million it paid out for Eagle Star in January crashed through all records and this latest deal tops the next-highest bid for the takeover of Thomas Tilling.

This offer will take BAT's debt/equity ratio back above 60 p.c. where it was immediately after the Eagle Star deal.

Mr Weinberg will remain chairman and chief executive of Hambro Life and expects to be left with an independent role of autonomous role. There will be no merger with Eagle Star since each has its own specialised financial products.

Worst ever month
for National Savings

By RICHARD NORTHEDEGE

NATIONAL SAVINGS suffered its worst month ever in November, with withdrawals from accounts exceeding new savings by a record £81.7 million last month — mainly because of massive encashments of granny bonds once the annual bonus was paid.

An improvement in the incentives for those who encashed index-linked certificates seems to have proved insufficient to prevent the huge withdrawals.

Only £11 million of new index-linked certificates—known as granny bonds even though there is no age qualification now—were sold during November. But existing holders of £150 million of certificates cashed them in.

The effect more than wiped out the net sales of other National Savings products, leaving total withdrawals of £472 million exceeding the total new sales of £410 million.

Bonuses on granny bonds not encashed, and thus credited to investment holdings, together with other interest and dividend income technically increased the value of investments by a record £269 million, giving an overall net £207 million increase to State funding.

This contribution is less than

the average £250 a month necessary to meet the £3 billion target set by the Government for the year, but the success of the twenty eighth issue savings certificate had already put the National Savings Department ahead of target, and two-thirds of the way through the financial year.

Although there was a net outflow from National Savings accounts of about £27 million in both June and July before the twenty eighth issue was introduced, November's outflow is by far the largest ever suffered.

The month's £472 million withdrawals were not so bad as August's £516 million though that month's figures were saved by record net sales of £980 million.

Sales of the new twenty-ninth issue certificate were £39.7 million last month compared with October's £64.7 million—despite the competition from British Telecom's share flotation—leaving that account with a net surplus compared with the previous month's net outflow.

The investment account again had a positive cashflow too with the 115 million of new investment outweighing the £108 million of withdrawals.

CBI signals output rise

INDICATIONS of a pick-up in manufacturing output and a renewed burst of price rises over the next four months emerge from the Confederation of British Industry's latest monthly industrial trend survey today.

Manufacturers expect output to increase at the levels achieved during the summer after an autumn dip. The number of companies planning price rises is the second-highest this year.

David Wigglesworth, chairman of the CBI's external relations committee, said: "Output appears to have stabilised at the fairly steady increase seen

over the last few months although growth is likely to be slower than in the earlier part of the year.

The survey, based on replies from 1,544 manufacturers, shows 30 p.c. anticipate an increase in output volume up to the middle of April and 12 p.c. a fall.

A total of 42 p.c. of companies are predicting price rises and 3 p.c. a cut. Eighteen per cent say order books are above normal levels and 27 p.c. say they are lower than normal, while 19 p.c. report export order books above usual levels and 26 p.c. below.

COMPUTERS

Systems in search of people

NEW business and new technology were to have been the country's salvation, creating wealth and jobs. But so far it has not quite turned out like that. One important reason, as a growing number of companies are discovering, is that jobs are being created but the people are not available to fill them.

Report after study after survey is showing that specialised manpower is scarce and getting scarcer, and that not nearly enough is being done to prevent the problem getting more acute. Manufacturers, users, and service companies all lack the right staff.

David Gardner, director of the Electronic Engineering Association, summed it up: "We don't get the skilled engineers soon, we may not need them at all in the long term because the industry will have died." He reckons we are 20 p.c. short of skilled electronic engineers now and the signs are that this is likely to get worse.

That is at the manufacturing industry end of the business. As Jim Wiltshire, head of occupational policy at the Manpower Services Commission, points out, the numbers required are not large, but they are key people to Britain's success in this sector. David Pardo, head of training at Data Logic, explains that such

people can come only from universities. But university cuts, said Dr Douglas Eyelons, director general of the Computing Services Association, have hit electronics. Yet his members need graduates not necessarily with specialist degrees but with experience of computers.

Computing services grew by 20 p.c. this year and the companies complain that if they could get the staff, it could have been faster—perhaps 30 p.c. The dangers are that exports are being held back, there is not enough import substitution and end-users are not implementing information technology fast enough, said Dr Eyelons.

Other countries like the United States were installing electronics faster and although the initial impact is to displace people, the increased efficiency is generating greater jobs overall, he added. Britain could be losing that race.

Computer users themselves are experiencing similar shortages. In even relatively small companies, there is a need for specialist skills in planning what is to be installed and where, in adapting a system for the organisation, and in operating it. "Employers have been looking for trained people and not training anybody themselves," said Edward Cluff, secretary

The Chancellor has abandoned any plans he might have had to tax the lump sums Civil Servants and others receive on retirement. But the lump sum is only the tip of the pensions iceberg, writes Clifford German.

LUMPS IN LAWSON'S THROAT

MORE than one hundred Members of Parliament signed the Early Day motion opposing any move to tax the lump-sum payments many pensioners are entitled to take on retirement. It became a minor issue in the Southgate by-election last week, and the Chancellor responded to pressure on Thursday by promising not to tax lump sums related to service already earned. So there is no need for anyone to take early retirement in an attempt to beat the next Budget.

But as a back bench revolt the pensions issue has fallen well short of the fury Sir Keith Joseph aroused with his plans to make middle class parents pay more for their children's university education, and the Chancellor has refused to promise to exempt lump-sum entitlements for future service or to guarantee other aspects of the pension industry's continued tax immunity in his search for new sources of revenue.

He may simply be standing on his dignity. But he may also be testing the strength of the opposition to see what and where its strengths are. He may well be working on the principle that he was able to get away with abolishing tax relief on life assurance premiums on policies taken out after the last Budget, and given the traditional public apathy he might do the same with pensions.

The debate goes back to September last year when the Inland Revenue produced a paper outlining the possible yield of taxing the pensions industry. Taxing lump sums at 50 p.c. could yield about £250 million a year and a 30 p.c. tax on the dividend income of existing pension funds could generate as much as £2.25 billion a year, a tempting plum for a Chancellor known to be searching for additional income to allow him to cut income tax without inflating the budget deficit.

Apart from the practical attraction of a new source of revenue, the Chancellor could well argue that combining tax exemption for pension funds actively discriminates against self reliance, positively encourages mass dependence on institutions to take care of the elderly, and is at odds of joint with the Government's brave new plans for making us all self-reliant, capitalistic and directly involved in the success of the country's economic performance.

In particular tax exemption for pension funds is unfair to those

of us who like to provide for our old age by investing savings from taxed income to generate investment income which is promptly taxed a second time. Supporters of tax exemption for pension funds can only counter by arguing that pensions are a form of deferred pay or possibly a form of insurance rather than an investment, although even that latter argument looks weak after the 1985 Budget.

The best practical argument against abolishing the tax advantages of pensions funds is, however, the analogy with tax relief on mortgages. If one goes, the case for the other is seriously weakened. But while one survives the other ought to be safe. And Mrs Thatcher once again made it clear this week that mortgage tax relief is safe with her. Therefore Nigel nibbles away at its intellectual foundations at his peril.

If the Chancellor does decide to press on, however, there are several ways of achieving what he wants. The obvious argument in favour of taxing lump sums is that they effectively escape all direct taxation while actual pensions are taxed as income when they are received. Supporters of tax free lump sums have to fall back on practical arguments. Many people have made plans which depend on their tax-free lump sums to pay off mortgages or to buy businesses, and those over 50 might not now have time to top up their contributions even if they were allowed to.

Bigger prizes

The pledge to exempt entitlements to date means, however, that the yield of a tax on future lump sums would build up very slowly, starting from as little as £20 million a year. If the Chancellor therefore decides the financial return is far too small to justify the political unpopularity it would create among those close to retirement he could simply switch to the potentially bigger prizes of taxing either contributions to pension funds, or the investment incomes of the funds themselves.

Taxing individual contributions would be a direct and personal challenge to existing occupational pension schemes paying pensions linked to final salary. The Chancellor is now committed to not taxing past contributions. Taxing future contributions would there-

fore almost certainly involve splitting all existing funds in two parts, one past one future. It could lead to employers effectively putting all existing funds into cold storage and starting up new funds with higher contributions or smaller benefits, or simply contracting all employees back into the State Earnings Related Scheme which is the last thing the Government wants.

Either way existing employees would be left with the disadvantages of being "early leavers" with none of the advantages of job mobility. That may fit in neatly with Mr Fowler's current bill introducing the uprating of the frozen pensions early leavers leave behind but that only covers future service from next month onwards. It could push existing employees to "transfer" their past contributions into new funds for future service on the basis of actuarially agreed terms, as Mr Fowler's bill also allows. But the scope for confusion, insecurity and resentment is almost infinite.

Payroll tax

Taxing employees' contributions alone would lead to strong pressure to shift all future contributions onto the employer, making most new company pension schemes non-contributory. Taxing employees on pension contributions from the employer as if they were perks would be even more unpopular and would probably bring most company schemes to a halt. Making employers' contributions to pension funds non-deductible as a business expense would treat them worse than other business expenses and would effectively act as a payroll tax, which would inevitably increase unemployment. Determined employers could respond by ceasing to fund their pensions and paying future pensions out of future income, but that would make pensions much more insecure if the companies went out of business.

That leaves taxing the investment income of the funds themselves. It has the practical advantage that the man in the street might be just as likely to blame the pension funds for any increase in contributions or reduction in benefits which it caused. The Chancellor would certainly claim that pension funds have enjoyed dividends and profits well in excess of inflation over the past five years largely as a result of the Government's own policies.

And just as the banks were called upon to pay a tax on windfall profits so the pension funds should pay for the "privilege" of a favourable investment environment.

The Chancellor could soften the blow by imposing the tax at an arbitrary rate of, say, 10 p.c. and for one year at a time, with the understanding that funds will not be taxed in years when the investment climate has been less favourable. But even that is unlikely to placate the supporters of the status quo, including most of the companies in the Confederation of British Industry as well as the National Association of Pension Funds and the Life Offices Association who make up the overwhelming bulk of the existing pensions establishment.

The one thing everyone agrees is that Mr Fowler's own review of pensions as part of the wider study of social security cannot go much further until Mr Lawson has decided whether and how to tax the pensions industry. Effectively the Chancellor has to make up his mind on the principle at stake in time to make an announcement in the next Budget. If he listens to the piecemeal arguments of the pensions lobby the chances are that he will find there is little or nothing he can do which will make a big and immediate contribution to tax revenue.

But the possibility that the Chancellor and the Social Services Secretary are getting their act together for a sweeping reform of the tax treatment of pensions and/or savings as a package cannot be ruled out.

Phillip Coappell, the director of Morgan Grenfell who is also a leading advocate of a wholesale switch from company earnings-related pensions to personal portable pensions linked only to investment performance, made it quite clear at the recent conference of the Institute for Fiscal Studies that he would like to see all tax exemptions swept away and pension contributions and investments all treated as forms of savings. His radical proposals seemed to make little impact on Mr Fowler over the past year. But he could still have convinced the Chancellor to take a hand in a reform which would at a stroke change the entire future of the pensions industry. State and private.

The Lombard Street column by Christopher Fildes will resume next week.

Bath snubs
Beazer

C. H. BEAZER's £48m bid for G.H. and Portland shares met with little success so far. This morning Brian Beazer is expected to announce few acceptances and will probably extend for another two weeks.

The stock market is hoping for higher terms with the Bath and Portland share price closing on Friday at 27½ against the shares and cash deal worth 236p a share. Modestly higher terms are likely but not yet.

Hang Seng up

THE HANG SENG index closed 1.8 p.c. up on the week at 1,429.6 largely as a result of confirmation that Hutchison Whampoa had made the HK\$390m (£41.30m) premium payment on the Hong Kong Hotel and casino site in Hong Kong. It also became clear last week that the company had completed HK\$300m (£31m) of infrastructure works on the site.

'Jock' quits Laing

J. C. "JOCK" DOUGLAS is resigning as an executive and a shareholder of Laing & Crick, shank at the end of the financial year next April but will remain as a consultant.

Mr Douglas was the senior partner of stockbrokers McAnally Montgomery, which merged with Laing & Crickbank two years ago. Earlier this year Mercantile House bought a 25.5 p.c. stake in Laing and will retain a 10 p.c. remainder on the same terms when Stock Exchange rules allow.

Record forecast
for shopbuilders

ORDERS for commercial building work will "increase to new heights in each of the three years to 1986," says a report today from the National Economic Development Office.

It says the construction industry is having a far better recovery than forecast six months ago with factories, offices and shops leading the way.

It was expected that construction groups would have a 2.5 p.c. growth in business this year; but it now looks like being 4 p.c.

Growth rate in commercial work for free-enterprise is expected to be 5 p.c. followed by a 4 p.c. rise in volume next year and a further increase of 3 p.c. in 1986.

"Construction forecasts 1984-85-86," £10 NEDO Books, London.

Property prospects

THERE ARE SIGNS that major American real estate brokers are eyeing the British market and there is speculation that one of the largest United States groups is poised to take over one of our biggest house estate agents. In tomorrow's commercial property column Bruce Kinloch will reveal one deal which looks likely to come off.

By Michael Beckett

Thomas Cook set to boost Midland

By ANNE SEGALL

THOMAS COOK, now owned by branches in Britain during the coming year, taking the total record contribution to profits to more than 300.

New branches are being opened, many providing just a travel agency service while others will concentrate on travellers cheque and foreign exchange facilities. The rest will be full service Cook branches covering all facilities.

A major success story for Cook over the past two years has been business travel, with sales in November and December already running at levels nearly 40 p.c. higher than in the same months last year. The travellers cheque and foreign exchange operations are, however, still the key profit-earners.

Now the company is on an expansionary tack once more with plans to open another 40

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This advertisement is issued in compliance with the requirements of the Council of The Stock Exchange.

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£6,500,000 nominal of 9.5 per cent. Cumulative Redeemable Preference Stock, 1984 (redeemable on 31st December, 1984)	6,500,000
	31,431,300

A Preference Unit comprises one New Participating Share (which will be fully paid on acceptance) and 100 New Preference Shares (payable as to 50p on acceptance and as to the balance on 28th June, 1985).

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London EC2V 7DX

17th December, 1984.

THIS WEEK IN THE CITY

Grandmet image put to the test

SHAREHOLDERS in Grand Metropolitan, the international hotels, brewing and leisure concern, will be hoping that the group will be weighing in with a fat profit for the year ending in March. The group has recently put a penny or two extra in the cap by way of a higher dividend.

At the interim stage the group pushed pre-tax profits on from £115.6 million to £147 million, helped by higher British brewing profits and a strong American performance.

The food side, however, was disappointing and its trading profits fell back sharply from £15.5 million to £8.7 million.

Apart from this division, however, the mainstream activities all improved profits, although chairman Stanley Gristeadt did warn of a slowdown in the second half.

Despite this, the American activities have continued to do well. Operating income in the nine months ended June rose from \$108 million to \$142.2 million, helped by the increase in sales of cigarettes, the timing of price increases and lower tobacco costs.

The group has also been active on the takeover front. After abandoning the proposed sale of its American cigarette business Liggett & Myers, it made an approach for Horizon Travel — rejected — and then agreed a \$124 million (£95.5

million) offer for Quality Care. The group has also recently bought a 25 p.c. stake in the Italian drinks company Cinzano.

For the full year profits, which should have benefited from a strong dollar, are being watched at around \$345 million (£295.2 million) pre-tax, while the total dividend is anticipated to rise from an adjusted 8-02p to 9-2p.

Shareholders in Distillers will also be hoping they too will be able to raise their glasses, after the company announces interim results on Thursday.

Profits in 1983-84 were adversely affected by the collapse in the Latin American market, and fell from £209.3 million to £191.8 million, but chairman John Connell has since forecast first half profits "comfortably in excess" of the very depressed comparable period while the full year outturn should show a "modest improvement".

In the first half, a better performance by United Glass, and something from the newly-acquired Somerset Importers, should have helped profits expand from £64.9 million to around £80 million pre-tax.

Over the full year, market analysts are forecasting profits in the region of £220 million.

Malcolm Locke

DIVIDENDS DIARY

TODAY—Finals—GT Asia (Sterling) Fund, Great Western Resources Income, P&G Holdings (Redfern National Glass, Speyhawk, Whessex).

Interims—Gaffney, Davies & Co. Halmia, Havensco Europe, Hampton Gold Mining Areas, May and Hassell, Scottish and Newcastle Breweries, Stock Conversion and Investment Trust.

TUESDAY—Finals—Bush Radio Jackson, J. and H.B., Trident Television, Watson and Philip, Western Assurance, Widney, Williamson Tea Holdings.

Interims—Equity and Law Assurance Society, P and C Alliance Trust, Reed Executive, Torchmark.

WEDNESDAY—Finals—Chemring Crystalline Holdings, Flexelle Casars and Wheels, Pict

COMPANIES

Reckitt & Colman Australia (88.75 p.c. owned by Reckitt & Colman). Full year pre-tax profit: £53.9m. Turnover: £1,050m. Dividend: 1.5p. (1983-84).

ASCO (ASCO Group). Turnover: £1,050m. Dividend: 1.5p. (1983-84).

AS1-82m Final dividend: 1.5p. (1983-84).

Health Care Services Pre-tax profit for half year ended Sept: £25,700 (loss £12,500). Turnover: £253,000. Dividend: 0.1p. (1983-84).

Wm. Cook and Sons (Sheffield) First half pre-tax profit: £204,000. Turnover: £2,360m. Dividend: 1.1p. (1983-84).

Interim dividend: 1.1p. (1983-84). Immediate order and workload position satisfactory.

Remold Board expects to pay preference dividend arrears once audited accounts for 1984-85 are available. This is subject to confirmation of capital reorganisation proposals by High Court.

MONEY & EXCHANGES

THE £ & ABROAD

Forward rates

The forward rates for currencies for one month and three months are as follows:

1 month 3 months

US \$ 1.5375 1.5375

Swiss 1.4875 1.4875

French 6.5575 6.5575

German 1.9375 1.9375

Italian 1.9375 1.9375

Japanese 163.75 163.75

Spanish 166.67 166.67

Portuguese 200.00 200.00

Belgian 36.36 36.36

Dutch 2.3636 2.3636

Australian 0.75 0.75

New Zealand 0.75 0.75

South African 1.50 1.50

Indian 47.50 47.50

Chinese 2.30 2.30

Thai 50.00 50.00

Singapore 1.35 1.35

Malaysian 1.35 1.35

Philippine 1.35 1.35

Indonesian 1.35 1.35

Malagasy 1.35 1.35

Madagascan 1.35 1.35

Comorian 1.35 1.35

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Kuwaiti 1.35 1.35

Saudi 1.35 1.35

GOLD PRICE

Effective Sterling Gold Price (1984-85) 1000 74.1 (74.1) 1000 74.1 (74.1) 1000 74.1 (74.1)

OTHER MARKET RATES

1984-85 1985-86 1986-87 1987-88 1988-89 1989-90 1990-91 1991-92 1992-93 1993-94 1994-95 1995-96 1996-97 1997-98 1998-99 1999-00 2000-01 2001-02 2002-03 2003-04 2004-05 2005-06 2006-07 2007-08 2008-09 2009-10 2010-11 2011-12 2012-13 2013-14 2014-15 2015-16 2016-17 2017-18 2018-19 2019-20 2020-21 2021-22 2022-23 2023-24 2024-25 2025-26 2026-27 2027-28 2028-29 2029-30 2030-31 2031-32 2032-33 2033-34 2034-35 2035-36 2036-37 2037-38 2038-39 2039-40 2040-41 2041-42 2042-43 2043-44 2044-45 2045-46 2046-47 2047-48 2048-49 2049-50 2050-51 2051-52 2052-53 2053-54 2054-55 2055-56 2056-57 2057-58 2058-59 2059-60 2060-61 2061-62 2062-63 2063-64 2064-65 2065-66 2066-67 2067-68 2068-69 2069-70 2070-71 2071-72 2072-73 2073-74 2074-75 2075-76 2076-77 2077-78 2078-79 2079-80 2080-81 2081-82 2082-83 2083-84 2084-85 2085-86 2086-87 2087-88 2088-89 2089-90 2090-91 2091-92 2092-93 2093-94 2094-95 2095-96 2096-97 2097-98 2098-99 2099-00 2100-01 2101-02 2102-03 2103-04 2104-05 2105-06 2106-07 2107-08 2108-09 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2984-85 2985-86 2986-87 2987-88 2988-89 2989-90 2990-91 2991-92 2992-93 2993-94 2994-95 2995-96 2996-97 2997-98 2998-99 2999-00 3000-01 3001-02 3002-03 3003-04 3004-05 3005-06 3006-07 3007-08 3008-09 3009-10 3010-11 3011-12 3012-13 3013-14 3014-15 3015-16 3016-17 3017-18 3018-19 3019-20 3020-21 3021-22 3022-23 3023-24 3024-25 3025-26 3026-27 3027-28 3028-29 3029-30 3030-31 3031-32 3032-33 3033-34 3034-35 3035-36 3036-37 3037-38 3038-39 3039-40 3040-41 3041-42 3042-43 3043-44 3044-45 3045-46 3046-47 3047-48 3048-49 3049-50 3050-51 3051-52 3052-53 3053-54 3054-55 3055-56 3056-57 3057-58 3058-59 3059-60 3060-61 3061-62 3062-63 3063-64 3064-65 3065-66 3066-67 3067-68 3068-69 3069-70 3070-71 3071-72 3072-73 3073-74 3074-75 3075-76 3076-77 3077-78 3078-79 3079-80 3080-81 3081

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GUIDE

Second Test—Fourth Day

GAVASKAR AND AMARNATH DASH ENGLAND HOPES

By MICHAEL CAREY in New Delhi

ENGLAND were permitted a tantalising glimpse of the promised land in the second Test in New Delhi yesterday when hostile bowling by Norman Cowans reduced India to 15 for two, before an unbroken partnership of 113 between Sunil Gavaskar and Mohinder Amarnath enabled them to end the day 17 runs ahead.

The growing assurance of this pair not only denied England another, much-needed breakthrough in the final session, but also emphasised that while the pitch occasionally rewards bowling of all types, a certain amount of quirkish good fortune will be needed to dislodge batsmen intent mainly on survival.

Much may depend on how India negotiate the final day's morning session, when the pitch tends to offer a little more to the quicker bowlers, especially perhaps with today's 9.30 a.m. start.

Evidence of that was acquired first-hand by Robinson yesterday when, having added only three to his admirable 157, he met a ball from Kapil Dev which lifted, ticked his glove and ended an innings of some 3½ hours of exemplary application and concentration which seemed to suggest England have at last discovered another batsman who likes to play Test cricket the old-fashioned way.

By batting throughout on Saturday, when his only blemishes were a possible stumping opportunity at 54 and a hard low chaser to Kinnaird at 158, Robinson enabled his side to overcome the possible frustration of another series of apparently bizarre dismissals at the other end.

Sivarama strikes
These were Lamb's departure, judged caught off bat and pad, Gower's lbw and Cowdrey, given out caught at slip when the ball had been hit into the air. On another day, he might have enjoyed the benefit of the doubt.

If anything, these episodes only increased Robinson's resolve. After his departure, Dowson and Edmonds carefully steered England 100 ahead, but hopes of the match being decided when Sivarama was dismissed were dashed by the innings with four wickets for 11 runs in 25 balls after lunch.

His six wickets left him with 18 in more than three hours, a phenomenal haul for any bowler, let alone a leg spinner of tender years.

He has bowled with an accuracy rare in his type here, and has been able to outpace the bowlers of Gower and Cowdrey, who were earning when batsmen were trying to assault

Decision on Allott today

Paul Allott, the England bowler who has been troubled by an undiagnosed back injury, was examined by an orthopaedic surgeon in New Delhi yesterday in the hope of discovering if the problem can be put right to enable him to continue on the tour.

The surgeon's report will be considered by the England selectors today and, after discussions with Lord's, a decision may be made whether Allott stays or if a replacement is sought.

Tony Brown, the England manager, said yesterday: "Obviously, we want Paul to play a part in the tour if possible as long as we can be sure of his fitness."

"This would obviously be preferable to asking for a replacement, who would require some time to become accustomed to the conditions."

"But that is a possibility we cannot rule out, depending on what medical advice we are given."

alone a leg spinner of tender years. He has bowled with an accuracy rare in his type here, and has been able to outpace the bowlers of Gower and Cowdrey, who were earning when batsmen were trying to assault

Before that, Dowson and Edmonds accumulated sensibly. The only problem arose when Edmonds was warned by the umpires for running up and down the pitch, though the apparent suggestion that he should replace his spiked footwear with rubber shoes was not needed.

All of this was regarded lightly by Gavaskar, which was typical of the match's excellent spirit, but by bowling only 29 overs in the morning session, India restricted England to 61 runs, which possibly influenced the events that followed.

They started when Edmonds was dismissed, but they failed to attack Sivarama. He had done



David Gower, the England captain, and Paul Downton, the wicketkeeper, watch as India's captain: Sunil Gavaskar, smugly holds a ball from Phil Edmonds past Chris Cowdrey at forward short leg.

Delhi details

INDIA—First Innings: 387 (Kapil Dev 66, R. M. Ellison 446).

Second Innings: S. M. Gavaskar not out 51, M. Prabhakar not out 51, D. E. Gavaskar not out 51, M. Prabhakar not out 51, D. E. Gavaskar not out 51, M. Prabhakar not out 51.

Total (2 wickets): 122, 214. Fall of wickets: 1-12, 2-14, 3-14, 4-14, 5-14, 6-14, 7-14, 8-14, 9-14, 10-14, 11-14, 12-14.

ENGLAND—First Innings: 61 (Gower 15, Robinson 157, Dowson 100, Edmonds 100, Sivarama 11, Brown 15, Cowdrey 15, Robinson 157, Dowson 100, Edmonds 100, Sivarama 11, Brown 15, Cowdrey 15).

Second Innings: 61 (Gower 15, Robinson 157, Dowson 100, Edmonds 100, Sivarama 11, Brown 15, Cowdrey 15, Robinson 157, Dowson 100, Edmonds 100, Sivarama 11, Brown 15, Cowdrey 15).

Total (2 wickets): 122, 214. Fall of wickets: 1-12, 2-14, 3-14, 4-14, 5-14, 6-14, 7-14, 8-14, 9-14, 10-14, 11-14, 12-14.

ENGLAND—First Innings: 61 (Gower 15, Robinson 157, Dowson 100, Edmonds 100, Sivarama 11, Brown 15, Cowdrey 15, Robinson 157, Dowson 100, Edmonds 100, Sivarama 11, Brown 15, Cowdrey 15).

Second Innings: 61 (Gower 15, Robinson 157, Dowson 100, Edmonds 100, Sivarama 11, Brown 15, Cowdrey 15, Robinson 157, Dowson 100, Edmonds 100, Sivarama 11, Brown 15, Cowdrey 15).

Total (2 wickets): 122, 214. Fall of wickets: 1-12, 2-14, 3-14, 4-14, 5-14, 6-14, 7-14, 8-14, 9-14, 10-14, 11-14, 12-14.

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Second Innings: 61 (Gower 15, Robinson 157, Dowson 100, Edmonds 100, Sivarama 11, Brown 15, Cowdrey 15, Robinson 157, Dowson 100, Edmonds 100, Sivarama 11, Brown 15, Cowdrey 15).

Total (2 wickets): 122, 214. Fall of wickets: 1-12, 2-14, 3-14, 4-14, 5-14, 6-14, 7-14, 8-14, 9-14, 10-14, 11-14, 12-14.

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Second Innings: 61 (Gower 15, Robinson 157, Dowson 100, Edmonds 100, Sivarama 11, Brown 15, Cowdrey 15, Robinson 157, Dowson 100, Edmonds 100, Sivarama 11, Brown 15, Cowdrey 15).

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Second Innings: 61 (Gower 15, Robinson 157, Dowson 100, Edmonds 100, Sivarama 11, Brown 15, Cowdrey 15, Robinson 157, Dowson 100, Edmonds 100, Sivarama 11, Brown 15, Cowdrey 15).

Total (2 wickets): 122, 214. Fall of wickets: 1-12, 2-14, 3-14, 4-14, 5-14, 6-14, 7-14, 8-14, 9-14, 10-14, 11-14, 12-14.

ENGLAND—First Innings: 61 (Gower 15, Robinson 157, Dowson 100, Edmonds 100, Sivarama 11, Brown 15, Cowdrey 15, Robinson 157, Dowson 100, Edmonds 100, Sivarama 11, Brown 15, Cowdrey 15).

Second Innings: 61 (Gower 15, Robinson 157, Dowson 100, Edmonds 100, Sivarama 11, Brown 15, Cowdrey 15, Robinson 157, Dowson 100, Edmonds 100, Sivarama 11, Brown 15, Cowdrey 15).

Total (2 wickets): 122, 214. Fall of wickets: 1-12, 2-14, 3-14, 4-14, 5-14, 6-14, 7-14, 8-14, 9-14, 10-14, 11-14, 12-14.

ENGLAND—First Innings: 61 (Gower 15, Robinson 157, Dowson 100, Edmonds 100, Sivarama 11, Brown 15, Cowdrey 15, Robinson 157, Dowson 100, Edmonds 100, Sivarama 11, Brown 15, Cowdrey 15).

Second Innings: 61 (Gower 15, Robinson 157, Dowson 100, Edmonds 100, Sivarama 11, Brown 15, Cowdrey 15, Robinson 157, Dowson 100, Edmonds 100, Sivarama 11, Brown 15, Cowdrey 15).

Total (2 wickets): 122, 214. Fall of wickets: 1-12, 2-14, 3-14, 4-14, 5-14, 6-14, 7-14, 8-14, 9-14, 10-14, 11-14, 12-14.

ENGLAND—First Innings: 61 (Gower 15, Robinson 157, Dowson 100, Edmonds 100, Sivarama 11, Brown 15, Cowdrey 15, Robinson 157, Dowson 100, Edmonds 100, Sivarama 11, Brown 15, Cowdrey 15).

Second Innings: 61 (Gower 15, Robinson 157, Dowson 100, Edmonds 100, Sivarama 11, Brown 15, Cowdrey 15, Robinson 157, Dowson 100, Edmonds 100, Sivarama 11, Brown 15, Cowdrey 15).

Total (2 wickets): 122, 214. Fall of wickets: 1-12, 2-14, 3-14, 4-14, 5-14, 6-14, 7-14, 8-14, 9-14, 10-14, 11-14, 12-14.

ENGLAND—First Innings: 61 (Gower 15, Robinson 157, Dowson 100, Edmonds 100, Sivarama 11, Brown 15, Cowdrey 15, Robinson 157, Dowson 100, Edmonds 100, Sivarama 11, Brown 15, Cowdrey 15).

LOGIE RALLIES W. INDIES

GUS LOGIE led a West Indian fightback with a dashing, unbeaten 99 on the third day of their four-day match against Tasmania in Devonport yesterday.

Logie and reserve wicket-keeper Theobald Payne, who hit 55, lifted the tourists, 203 behind on the first innings, to 181 for three in their second innings.

The pair shared the honours with Courtney Walsh, who finished with 6-119 as Tasmania were all out for 387 in reply to the West Indians 184.

Logie, who lost his Test place during the home series against Australia earlier this year, made a timely return to form while Richards, caught at mid-wicket, continued his chequered tour.

After Richardson had failed for the second time in the match—he scored eight and two—Logie, dropped twice off Ray and Payne put on 138 for the second wicket.

Tasmania owed much to Garry Goodman, 26, a schoolteacher, who put on 150 for the first wicket with Ray and a further 89 with Noon. It was his maiden first-class hundred.

Scoreboard at Devonport
WEST INDIES—First Innings: 184 (G. Logie 99, R. Brown 47-2).

Second Innings: R. B. Richardson 3, H. Payne 55, G. Logie 99, R. Brown 47-2.

Tasmania—First Innings: 387 (C. Walsh 6-119, G. Goodman 26, R. Brown 47-2).

Second Innings: R. B. Richardson 3, H. Payne 55, G. Logie 99, R. Brown 47-2.

Tasmania—First Innings: 387 (C. Walsh 6-119, G. Goodman 26, R. Brown 47-2).

Second Innings: R. B. Richardson 3, H. Payne 55, G. Logie 99, R. Brown 47-2.

Tasmania—First Innings: 387 (C. Walsh 6-119, G. Goodman 26, R. Brown 47-2).

Second Innings: R. B. Richardson 3, H. Payne 55, G. Logie 99, R. Brown 47-2.

Tasmania—First Innings: 387 (C. Walsh 6-119, G. Goodman 26, R. Brown 47-2).

Second Innings: R. B. Richardson 3, H. Payne 55, G. Logie 99, R. Brown 47-2.

Tasmania—First Innings: 387 (C. Walsh 6-119, G. Goodman 26, R. Brown 47-2).

Second Innings: R. B. Richardson 3, H. Payne 55, G. Logie 99, R. Brown 47-2.

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Third Test—Fifth Day

Saleem & Wasim foil New Zealand

A DASHING century by Saleem Malik prevented Pakistan on a winning note in Karachi on Saturday when the third and final Test ended in a draw.

Pakistan, resuming at 77 for two, plunged to 130 for five before lunch but an undefeatable sixth-wicket partnership of 178 between Saleem and Wasim Raja frustrated New Zealand.

Pakistan who had already clinched the series 2-0 with wins in Lahore and Hyderabad, ended 387 for five when play was called off an hour before the scheduled close. Saleem finished at 118 and Raja 60.

The New Zealand bowlers were on top for the first hour, sending back Mian, Shoaib and Zahoor, but lost their grip when Saleem went on to the attack.

Fastest of series
Saleem, who in recent matches has emerged as Pakistan's most exciting batsman, dominated from the moment he came to the crease, sprinting to his century in 115 minutes, the fastest of the series, with 18 fours and a six.

He received solid support from Wasim Raja, who despite playing a secondary role eventually reached his second half-century of the match.

Saleem and Wasim Raja were so much in control that neither offered a semblance of a fight and in desperate attempts to split the pair New Zealand's captain, Jeremy Conway, used eight bowlers.

REVENGE CHANCE FOR N. ZEALAND
New Zealand have an early chance to avenge their 2-0 defeat by Pakistan in the three-match Test series which ended in Karachi on Saturday.

The Pakistanis are making a 45-day tour of New Zealand starting next month, which will include three Tests. Itinerary: Jan. 4-10—Canterbury (Christchurch); Jan. 11-17—Otago (Dunedin); Jan. 18-24—North Island (Hamilton); Jan. 25-31—South Island (Christchurch); Feb. 1-7—North Island (Auckland); Feb. 8-14—South Island (Dunedin); Feb. 15-21—North Island (Auckland).

Scoreboard at Devonport
WEST INDIES—First Innings: 184 (G. Logie 99, R. Brown 47-2).

Second Innings: R. B. Richardson 3, H. Payne 55, G. Logie 99, R. Brown 47-2.

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Tasmania—First Innings: 387 (C. Walsh 6-119, G. Goodman 26, R. Brown 47-2).

The Daily Telegraph, 15 Monday, Dec. 17, 1984

Rotting CAMBRIDGE TRIAL IS SPOILED

By GEOFFREY PAGE

THE Cambridge rowing trial eight took 22 minutes to cover the Boat Race course on Saturday but the race itself was virtually over within half a minute as a result of a clash of blades.

There was a very slack, low tide which had barely turned when the crews eventually started. "Short" on the Surrey station, across the bridge, and inevitably, within 15 seconds, the crews tangled blades, with "Curly" getting the better of things.

Curly took the lead at once, and drew away steadily to lead by 2½ lengths at the mile post. Short, with James continuing his erratic course, never saw their opponents again and that was that.

The winners were 20 seconds or so ahead at the finish, but by the time it was dark and nothing else of significance could be seen and it was impossible to assess individual form.

With so much at stake for the members of the crews it was extraordinary that the race was not re-started after the clash, but Alan Ince, the chief coach, said that nobody has a second chance in the Boat Race.

Shaw chance
The crews have to learn their lesson, he said. The result was a meaningless race from which the coaches could have learned next to nothing because, in practice, the crews had been closely matched.

All that one can say with confidence was that Henrietta Shaw was by far the best cox and, with a weight advantage of more than 2½ stone over her rival, she may well become the first girl to row Cambridge in the Boat Race.

What little that could be seen of the crews suggested that Cambridge lacked the power and strength shown in Oxford's trial the previous Saturday, so next April it will be a difficult task for them to break Oxford's long run of success.

Curly, P. M. S. Hadden (cox) and Henrietta Shaw, Surrey, were the winners. The trial was held at the Boat Race course, Putney, London, on Saturday, December 15, 1984.

THOMSON HAT-TRICK
Jeff Thomson completed a hat-trick in career-best seven for the Queenslanders in the Sheffield Shield cricket match against Western Australia in Brisbane, yesterday.

Sheffield Shield (New South Wales): 1-150, 2-126, 3-241, 4-162, 5-305, 6-305, 7-305, 8-356, 9-356, 10-356, 11-356, 12-356.

YACHTING
LYMINGTON TOWN SC—Presidents' Cup, 1st Race, 1st Prize, 2nd Prize, 3rd Prize, 4th Prize, 5th Prize, 6th Prize, 7th Prize, 8th Prize, 9th Prize, 10th Prize, 11th Prize, 12th Prize, 13th Prize, 14th Prize, 15th Prize, 16th Prize, 17th Prize, 18th Prize, 19th Prize, 20th Prize, 21st Prize, 22nd Prize, 23rd Prize, 24th Prize, 25th Prize, 26th Prize, 27th Prize, 28th Prize, 29th Prize, 30th Prize, 31st Prize, 32nd Prize, 33rd Prize, 34th Prize, 35th Prize, 36th Prize, 37th Prize, 38th Prize, 39th Prize, 40th Prize, 41st Prize, 42nd Prize, 43rd Prize, 44th Prize, 45th Prize, 46th Prize, 47th Prize, 48th Prize, 49th Prize, 50th Prize, 51st Prize, 52nd Prize, 53rd Prize, 54th Prize, 55th Prize, 56th Prize, 57th Prize, 58th Prize, 59th Prize, 60th Prize, 61st Prize, 62nd Prize, 63rd Prize, 64th Prize, 65th Prize, 66th Prize, 67th Prize, 68th Prize, 69th Prize, 70th Prize, 71st Prize, 72nd Prize, 73rd Prize, 74th Prize, 75th Prize, 76th Prize, 77th Prize, 78th Prize, 79th Prize, 80th Prize, 81st Prize, 82nd Prize, 83rd Prize, 84th Prize, 85th Prize, 86th Prize, 87th Prize, 88th Prize, 89th Prize, 90th Prize, 91st Prize, 92nd Prize, 93rd Prize, 94th Prize, 95th Prize, 96th Prize, 97th Prize, 98th Prize, 99th Prize, 100th Prize, 101st Prize, 102nd Prize, 103rd Prize, 104th Prize, 105th Prize, 106th Prize, 107th Prize, 108th Prize, 109th Prize, 110th Prize, 111th Prize, 112th Prize, 113th Prize, 114th Prize, 115th Prize, 116th Prize, 117th Prize, 118th Prize, 119th Prize, 120th Prize, 121st Prize, 122nd Prize, 123rd Prize, 124th Prize, 125th Prize, 126th Prize, 127th Prize, 128th Prize, 129th Prize, 130th Prize, 131st Prize, 132nd Prize, 133rd Prize, 134th Prize, 135th Prize, 136th Prize, 137th Prize, 138th Prize, 139th Prize, 140th Prize, 141st Prize, 142nd Prize, 143rd Prize, 144th Prize, 145th Prize, 146th Prize, 147th Prize, 148th Prize, 149th Prize, 150th Prize, 151st Prize, 152nd Prize, 153rd Prize, 154th Prize, 155th Prize, 156th Prize, 157th Prize, 158th Prize, 159th Prize, 160th Prize, 161st Prize, 162nd Prize, 163rd Prize, 164th Prize, 165th Prize, 166th Prize, 167th Prize, 168th Prize, 169th Prize, 170th Prize, 171st Prize, 172nd Prize, 173rd Prize, 174th Prize, 175th Prize, 176th Prize, 177th Prize, 178th Prize, 179th Prize, 180th Prize, 181st Prize, 182nd Prize, 183rd Prize, 184th Prize, 185th Prize, 186th Prize, 187th Prize, 188th Prize, 189th Prize, 190th Prize, 191st Prize, 192nd Prize, 193rd Prize, 194th Prize, 195th Prize, 196th Prize, 197th Prize, 198th Prize, 199th Prize, 200th Prize, 201st Prize, 202nd Prize, 203rd Prize, 204th Prize, 205th Prize, 206th Prize, 207th Prize, 208th Prize, 209th Prize, 210th Prize, 211th Prize, 212th Prize, 213th Prize, 214th Prize, 215th Prize, 216th Prize, 217th Prize, 218th Prize, 219th Prize, 220th Prize, 221st Prize, 222nd Prize, 223rd Prize, 224th Prize, 225th Prize, 226th Prize, 227th Prize, 228th Prize, 229th Prize, 230th Prize, 231st Prize, 232nd Prize, 233rd Prize, 234th Prize, 235th Prize, 236th Prize, 237th Prize, 238th Prize, 239th Prize, 240th Prize, 241st Prize,

